

THE TIMES

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New York, New York, such a dangerous place

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My lonely life without Terence Donovan

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Europe seeks new President

Demand for radical reform splits North and South

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN leaders embarked on a search for a new European Commission president yesterday after Jacques Santer infuriated many of them by defiantly rejecting the charges of political failure that brought the resignation of the whole Brussels executive.

Compounding the political turmoil raging across the 15-nation bloc, a humiliated Mr Santer claimed angrily that the verdict of incompetence by an external fraud inquiry was a shocking travesty. "This picture is distorted. I consider the tone of the report's conclusions to be wholly unjustified," he said.

He was matched by an unrepentant Edith Cresson of France, whose misconduct accelerated the Commission's downfall and was pilloried by the inquiry. She insisted that she had no regrets — although French support for her appeared to be evaporating.

But Mr Santer's hopes of clinging to his job were all but destroyed as Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, began sounding leaders on possible successors at the start of a tour of all 15 EU capitals that had already been planned to pave the way for a crucial pact on spending reform in Berlin next week.

And the Commission President's performance brought instant attack from Britain's two commissioners, Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock. Mr Kinnock was appalled at the way the Commission appeared to think it was "business as usual", his spokeswoman said. Evidence for his view was on display as senior officials tried to ignore the political rubble in their headquarters and played down the crisis as a mere impediment to their business of running the Union's affairs.

Sir Leon accused Mr Santer of carping, saying: "I do not think this is the time to carp and cowl at the content of the report. The time for talking and political controversy is over. What is now needed is comprehensive root and branch reform."

Sir Leon and Mr Kinnock are among a number of outgoing commissioners who were not personally tainted by the fraud report and are likely to be reappointed. But, with Mr Santer pushing hard to stay



Javier Solana: joint favourite

on as head of a caretaker team, there was a clear geographical divide over the rest of the Commission and its leader. Pressure for rapid change came mainly from northern governments, while Italy, Spain, and other southern states indicated that they could accept a caretaker administration.

This reflected a widespread view in the Mediterranean that the Commission had fallen victim to a self-righteous crusade by northern politicians. Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, said that he was "worried about the Commission's resignation at such an important time for Europe's future." And Ramon de Miguel, Spain's Europe Minister, said that an unnecessary crisis had been triggered by a "lack of solidarity" with the Commission by political groups in the Parliament.

In glaring contrast, the Governments of Denmark, Sweden, Finland and The Netherlands hailed the Commission's rout as a chance to purge a discredited system. Sweden said it would not reappoint Anita Gradin, its Commissioner, who was in charge of fraud investigation in Brussels.

The only outright backing for Mr Santer came from Luxembourg, his home state and the EU's smallest member. "Luxembourg stresses that all

the criticisms aimed at Mr Santer, have been shown to be unfounded and erroneous," said Jean-Claude Juncker, the Prime Minister.

The most powerful EU governments now want to use the drama to spur sweeping reform and that means ensuring Mr Santer's rapid departure. While Tony Blair was calling in London for root and branch reform, President Chirac said: "More than ever we must have effective, responsible institutions in Europe, which are close to citizens."

Herr Schröder, whose country's presidency of the EU was in trouble before the Brussels debacle, also favoured appointing a strong leader to steer the Commission to the end of its five-year term in December, but he was determined to prevent the crisis from blocking the Berlin summit, and he did not believe that a new president would be chosen there.

He offered no names for a successor to Mr Santer, but speculation focused on a clutch of left-wing politicians from the Mediterranean states — a region that is deemed to be in turn for the top Brussels seat. The most mentioned candidates are Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, and Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister.

The process is, however, complicated by EU rules that will prevent the governments from guaranteeing the new president a full five-year term when the Commission comes up for renewal at the New Year. That can come only with a new European Parliament — and the choice of the new president is likely to be subject to the same bitter haggling that has marked the exercise for decades.

Pressure for a swift replacement of the Brussels team also came from the European Parliament, whose rout of the Commission has enshrined it as a formidable new force in EU affairs. José-Maria Gil-Robles, the assembly president, said the Santer team "must leave now and not in nine months' time". And Pauline Green, the British Labour MEP who leads the dominant Socialist bloc, said: "We have the opportunity to create a better Commission for the next millennium."



Edith Cresson arriving at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels yesterday

Cresson: Je ne regrette rien

BY CHARLES BREMNER AND SUSAN BELL

DEFIANT to the end, Edith Cresson yesterday echoed the words of Edith Piaf when she said: "Je n'ai pas de regrets." The former French Prime Minister also told France 2 television that she had no need to clear her name since the Com-

mission had been found collectively responsible. "There was malfunctioning like in any administration," she said.

However, Mme Cresson's hauteur will be remembered as the catalyst of the catastrophe. The headline in yesterday's *Liberation* said it all: "Cresson sinks the Commission." There was something in-

evitable in the way that Mme Cresson dragged the Commission into the position where it could be executed by a rampant European Parliament.

Some of her colleagues are now barely on speaking terms with her, believing she could have saved them by sacrificing herself in January. By this week, it was too late.

Blair wants high-flyer appointed quickly

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR and Gerhard Schröder called last night for a "political heavyweight" to take over swiftly from Jacques Santer, squashing any attempt by the European Commission President to stay in office.

The Prime Minister said that the unprecedented resignation of the entire Commission executive should be used as the opportunity to push through a root-and-branch reform of Europe's bureaucracy. And he believes that by appointing a "thorough-going reformer" as the new president, the EU may be able to recover from the crisis caused by Monday's damning fraud report.

The German Chancellor, who spent 90 minutes with Mr Blair at Downing Street yesterday, echoed that view, saying Mr Santer's successor had to be highly qualified, with lots of political experience and economic skills.

Next week's special summit in Berlin on the EU budget now seems certain to be dominated by the Brussels convulsions, and Downing Street suggested that EU leaders should make progress towards appointing of a new Commission president by then.

But while Herr Schröder accepted that the presidency would be discussed in Berlin, he did not want the issue to stand in the way of a deal on the future finances of the Community, and he suggested that

there might be an informal summit later to decide who should succeed Mr Santer.

Mr Blair is against naming a stop-gap president to serve until December, when Mr Santer was expected to step down, and instead wants someone who will go on to serve a full term. Potential candidates he might support include Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister, or the Portuguese Prime Minister, Antonio Guterres.

Mr Blair told MPs that the Commission should remain only until a new one was appointed, but he made plain that he would be seeking the reappointment of the two British commissioners, Neil Kinnock and Sir Leon Brittan.

Mr Santer was by no means solely responsible for the situation uncovered by the report, and many of the issues predated his appointment. But, Mr Blair added: "We cannot have the next president decided in the same way as the last, debating the narrow interests of one country or another. The top jobs, not just in the Commission, but throughout the European institutions, should go to the top people. Merit and merit alone should decide."

There should be a "new contract" between the Commission and Europe's heads of government setting a new course of reform and change for the continent.

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Jenny Pitman rides into the Cheltenham sunset

BY SIMON BARNES

JENNY PITMAN, jump racing's eternal female lead, prima donna, pantomime dame and principal boy, yielded to her incurable taste for the theatrical by announcing her retirement on the opening day of the Cheltenham Festival, the biggest occasion in her sport.

She will end a career of extraordinary success — success well-seasoned with controversy and feud — at the end of the season.

Pitman, brought up in farmhouse without running water as part of a large family rich only in animals, stormed the male-dominated sport of jump racing.

John Francome, the former champion jockey, suggested in his autobiography, *Born Lucky*, that trainers at the jump racing's heartland village of Lambourn held a daily shouting competition, judged on volume alone. "But since Jenny Pitman started they have only been competing for second place."

It is unclear whether Francome intends his tribute to Pitman in malice or affection. That is the normal response to Pitman.

She has made scores of enemies with hard words, hot temper and casual rudeness, but

LIGHTNING STRIKE

Isabraq — Arabic for "runs like lightning" — won the Smartest Champion Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival for the second successive year. Charlie Swann, his jockey, said: "He's brilliant." Page 48

she also inspires the most heartfelt devotion. That contradiction is at the heart of Pitman's life-work.

Racing will be quieter without her. She makes Don King, the famously loud-mouthed boxing promoter, seem like a shy, sensitive creature. On the other hand, Pitman is in some ways a shy, sensitive creature herself. She could not have grown so monstrous a caricature of noise and aggression were there not a good deal of softness to protect her softness. Her toughness made her superb at looking after horses, her toughness made her superb at judging them.

She is one of those tough, self-reliant people who brings out a heartfelt protective instinct in those closest to her.

Her achievement in starting from nothing to one of the most powerful stables in jumping would be amazing were she an unencumbered male.

Continued on page 3, col 8

Rats help four infertile fathers

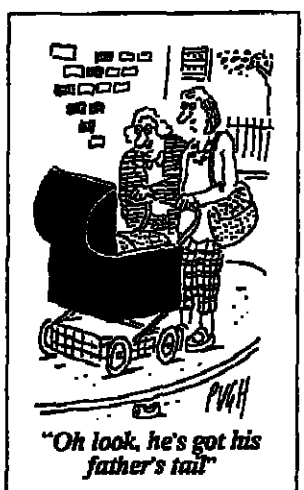
FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

FOUR men considered sterile by doctors have fathered healthy babies after their sperm was matured inside rats' testicles, an Italian gynaecologist said yesterday. The experiment was denounced by Italy's Bioethics Committee as "an extreme ma-

nipulation" while other experts said that the operation could have "unpredictable genetic consequences".

Dr Severino Antinori, who has helped post-menopausal women to become pregnant, told an international assisted-procreation conference in Venice that three Italians and a Japanese had benefited from the "cure" — developed by him with Professor Nikolaos Sofikitis of Tottori University at Yonago, Japan.

Dr Antinori emphasised that the method circumvented Italian legislation because it did not require an external sperm donor. After three months inside rat tissue the "mature" sperm was used to create an embryo through in vitro fertilisation. Couples were hesitant before the procedure, "but it was the only way for them to have a child. Then the children were born and the fear of any kind of deformity was proven to be unfounded".



"Oh look, he's got his father's tail"

ton be
faint

old man suggested. William Hague decided to press Blair's response as inadequate.

Had he heard Sir Edward he might have thought better and called it pie-in-the-sky.

Responding, Blair mentioned Jacques Santer and looking straight at Hague snorted that the Tories were making a habit "of appointing compromise candidates who seem like a good idea at the time".

Ouch. For all who believe that nemesis does not follow hubris, that was a corker.

By IAN MURRAY, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

erations led to death or brain damage for more than 150 infants.

However, records are so poor that the inquiry still does not know exactly how many operations were performed between 1984 and 1995. Information was stored by a number of medical and the computers used to collate them was stolen. None of the official logs is complete. Consequently, the inquiry will rely heavily on evidence from parents whose children were operated on.

In his opening address, Brian Langstaff, QC, counsel for the inquiry, said the aim was to get at the truth so that wider recommendations made to improve health care in the NHS.

Getting the facts accurately

BY HELEN RUMBLOW

son added: "Frankly I was astonished that there were no standards and the hospitals were obliged to live up to a very narrow mechanism in the NHS to make sure that they did."

At the moment if there is a problem, such as the Bristol heart deaths, there is no clear method of either identifying it or reporting it, he said.

The watchdog, called the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI), is expected to be formed later this year.

Mr Dobson said his aim was not to establish a "blame culture" that would antagonise doctors, "but to spread good practice".

Hospital chief executives will now be held responsible both for the budget of the hospital and the quality of medicine.

Tracey Clarke, whose daughter was born with transposed arteries: "I thought she was going to be in the best hands"

mana told the mother all had gone well. "She looked pink and all the blue tinged had gone. There was all the paraphernalia of the intensive care unit sucking out of her, but she looked lovely," Mrs. Clarke told the inquiry.

Two days later she arrived with her son, and found the baby surrounded by doctors who said something had gone wrong. Mr. Dhassanani told them that the baby still had a 70 per cent chance of survival. Only later did Mrs. Clarke learn that mechanical problems had occurred with a ventilator and the baby had not been oxygenated properly for several hours.

A couple of evenings later, she rang the hospital and was told that "everything is going

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

New CCTV systems will be installed in housing estates, towns, bus and railway stations and particularly car parks, Mr Straw said. About £20 million has been allocated for next year, £60 million for the following year and £70 million in the third year. "In the right context CCTV can significantly reduce crime and disorder," he said.


"It is like having a number of police officers permanently on the beat in particu-

By MICHAEL HARVEY

Al Fayed claimed that his son Dodi and the Princess had visited his house, Villa Windsor, the former Paris home of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, for two hours on the day before they died. He insisted they had looked over the house with the aim of making it their marital home, although the Princess's family has denied that she was to marry.

Manchester University has knocked Cambridge off top spot in an annual poll of employers' preferred sources of graduates for the first time in a decade. More than 200 large companies contributed to the Signposts to Employability 1999 survey. They rated Manchester top for business and finance courses and also considered its careers service the best in Britain. Sheffield Hallam was the employers' favourite west end university.

Senior nur



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Eton boy hanged in fainting game

Inquest told that 15-year-old took search for strangulation 'buzz' too far, reports Helen Johnstone

BOYS at Eton regularly played a "fainting game" that involved two of them tightening a dressing gown cord around the neck of a third, an inquest into the death of a 15-year-old pupil was told yesterday. When the boy being "fainted" stopped tapping his thigh, that was the signal that the desired state of unconsciousness had been reached.

The inquest into the death of Nicholas Taylor was told that he had decided to continue playing the game on his own. He was found on February 22 hanging by a towelling cord from his bedroom door.

A pupil told the hearing, at Windsor, that up to ten boys in Baldwin's Bec House at Eton, the school attended by Princes William and Harry, had tried the game between 70 and 100 times over a two to three-week period before dropping out.

Robert Wilson, the East Berkshire Coroner, said: "I have been sitting in this court for 28 years and I thought I had heard everything. How naive can I be?"

"The fainting game, in my language attempted strangulation, taking place between boys who are some of the cream of our society and probably of above average intelligence, why? What words spring to mind? Crazy, mad, stupid? What on earth were they thinking of? What would be the inevitable outcome sooner or later?"

The inquest was told that Nicholas, from Esher in Surrey, had demonstrated his method of self-strangulation to fellow pupils but had never carried it out in front of them. One pupil said Nicholas fainted most nights — the game was played between supper and prayers — sometimes up to three times. He said: "He seemed to



Nicholas Taylor: game started by accident

helped to do the same to others. "I witnessed faintings between 70 to 100 times over a few weeks." Asked why he did it, he said: "I'm not sure. It was different, not pleasant or unpleasant."

Asked if it had ever crossed his mind that someone could be strangled, he said: "Yes, slightly but not seriously." He said he did not worry about being caught. He did not believe Robert Topham, Baldwin's Bec House Master, would approve but did not "think he would take a strong line."

The boy said that Nicholas, whose parents, Liz and Malcolm, were at the inquest, had first indicated he would try to "faint" himself by tying his dressing gown cord to the met-

al door closer after other boys had refused to help him. "If no one was going to do it to him he would do it himself."

Mr Topham told the inquest the fainting game was generally carried out when he was having supper. He accepted that the boys had taken advantage of his absence. He had been "astonished" to find out about it and that he had not heard of the game until Nicholas's death.

Recording a verdict of misadventure, the coroner said it was clear that Nicholas wanted to continue fainting on his own. "He was doing what he intended willingly to do and it went wrong."

He said he found it difficult to criticise Eton College, whose staff could only do so much to look after the boys in their care. "Yes, they had an absolute duty, they are in loco parentis, but there is just so much they can do and no more. They are not prison officers."

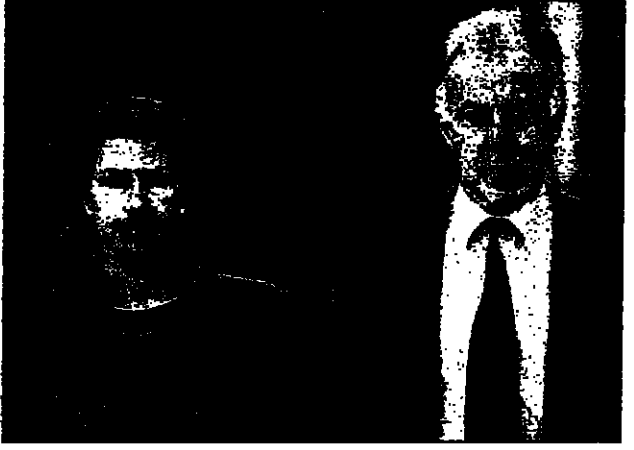
He could not see how the housemaster or senior prefects could have done more.

In a statement released after the inquest, John Lewis, Eton's Head Master, said Nicholas's death, which was an outright tragedy for the Taylor family, had also touched many people at the college.

"Those who were his friends or closely involved with him or who were caught up in the circumstances of his death have been greatly affected. The chief sympathy of everybody at Eton remains with Mr and Mrs Taylor and Nicholas's sister and brothers."

Mr Lewis said that since it had emerged that eight to ten boys in Baldwin's Bec were involved in induced fainting, House Masters had spoken to their boys in the strongest possible terms about the importance of not doing such things or allowing others to do them.

He emphasised that the coroner had said that he could not see that the House Master or the senior boys could have done more.



Nicholas's parents, Liz and Malcolm Taylor, yesterday

Care that makes houses a home

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE pastoral system of care at Eton, based on 24 small houses, has been a feature of the school for generations. The choice of house and housemaster was the crucial factor in the decision to send Prince William and Prince Harry there.

Each of Eton's 1,200 boys has three adults looking after his welfare: a housemaster, a tutor and a dame — the school's term for a matron. Boys are also invited to consult two school doctors, five chaplains and a part-time counsellor.

The centre of school life is the house, where the housemaster and dame have the principal charge of a boy's welfare. Both are readily accessible and visit boys in their rooms in the evening. A senior boy acts as house captain, helping to maintain discipline and keeping the housemaster informed.

An inspection report by the Headmas-

ters' and Headmistresses' Conference last year described the house system as an "important and impressive feature of Eton". The inspectors said: "Housemasters are immensely caring and knowledgeable about their charges."

"They are people of authority of presence, yet possess a very personal touch without being overbearing."

All boys have their own study bedrooms, providing a degree of privacy unknown in some boarding schools but also making constant supervision impossible. Although there are common rooms, social-



Eton: was praised for welfare role

ising in the evenings often takes place in individuals' rooms.

Eton has had a series of highly publicised drugs cases but the HMC report was complimentary. "This is a civilised community of pupils who respect one another's independence and live together equitably. The overall ethos of the school is such that pupils generally feel secure in school and have confidence that any incidence of bullying is dealt with swiftly and effectively," it said.

The coroner seemed to endorse those findings at the inquest. He concluded that, although it was surprising that the boys should have engaged in such dangerous practices, he could not see that the housemaster or senior boys could have done more. "There is just so much they can do and no more. They are not prison officers."



Jenny Pitman smiling through the tears as she announces her retirement yesterday

Smoker's widow wins payout for cancelled heart surgery

THE widow of a man denied a heart bypass operation because he smoked five cigarettes a day has been given £40,000 in compensation.

John Gibson, 59, died of a heart attack ten months after the last-minute cancellation of a triple-bypass operation at Southampton General Hospital, Hampshire. As he was being prepared for surgery, his surgeon had asked him whether he had given up smoking.

When Mr Gibson replied "No" the doctor sent him home and told him that he could rejoin the NHS waiting list once he gave up.

Mr Gibson went on the waiting list at a different NHS hospital, but was unable to undergo the surgery before he died in November 1993.

His wife, Andrea, issued a writ against the Southampton and South West District Health Authority. The authority has agreed to an out-of-court settlement, but maintains that while Mr Gibson continued to smoke doctors considered that the risks of operating on him were too high.

Mrs Gibson said: "It was a

devastating blow when he was turned down for the surgery and John was never the same again. When he died I lost everything — my husband and then my house. I am relieved that at last this whole unpleasant affair is over."

Mr Gibson had a history of health problems. He had smoked 20 cigarettes a day, but cut down to five when told he needed the operation.

Mrs Gibson, of Alton, Hampshire, said: "He was so nervous about the operation

and was very determined to give up so he wouldn't be put in the same situation again."

"I don't think he could believe [the operation] had stopped at the last minute and I don't think he could face going through it all again."

He went back on the waiting list at the Royal Brompton Hospital in London where he had more tests in June but died in the November."

Mr Gibson, an independent car trader who ran a letting agency with his wife, had pre-

viously always gone to a private hospital.

"He could have had the operation a week after the first tests for £11,000 but at the time we couldn't afford it and so went on the NHS," Mrs Gibson said. "The one time that he relied on the NHS he was let down abysmally."

The settlement with the health authority was reached without any acceptance of liability. A spokesman said: "The trust rejects allegations that this patient was refused treatment. His operation was deferred until he gave up smoking because the risks of operating while he continued to smoke were considered too high by the doctors."

"The decision ... was backed by the British Medical Association."

Simon Clark, a spokesman for the smokers' group FOR-EST, said: "Smokers are entitled to the same care and compassion as non-smokers. We can only hope that this case emphasises the considerable financial penalties which hospitals may face if they fail to treat smokers equally."



Andrea and John Gibson, who was refused a bypass

Senior nurse rejected doctor's 'suggestion of euthanasia'



Bleasdale: senior nurse

A NURSE yesterday described her horror when a doctor in charge of an elderly patient had allegedly suggested euthanasia.

June Bleasdale, senior nurse at a nursing home, told the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council that Ken Taylor had ordered her to stop the woman's food supplement and curtail her fluid intake. She made clear she would refuse. Mary Ormerod, 85, who had suffered several strokes, was taken off the supplement Fresubin on June 29, 1995, and died 58 days later at Oxford House, Preston, weighing 3st 12lb.

Mrs Bleasdale, who was deputising as matron, said that Dr Taylor

Acting matron left job after confrontation, reports Michael Horsnell

had asked her to accompany him to the room where the bedridden Mrs Ormerod was lying. He told her he had been approached by two of her daughters and then outlined his instructions while averting his gaze from the worried nurse.

She told the hearing: "He said he had been approached by two people. They were members of the family. He said they were both very distressed at their mother's ongoing situation that they were struggling with the fact that her condition was not getting any worse and they had dis-

cussed it. He said he wanted Fresubin stopped and her fluid regime to be curtailed from 200mls every two hours to between 20 and 50mls."

Mrs Bleasdale protested that the weather was "scorching" and that a reduction in fluid would soon cause dehydration in anybody. "I was horrified. I expressed my horror. I asked him to clarify exactly what he had said. He clarified it and he added that it was the 'quantity versus quality of life' in question. After he had repeated his instructions I asked if what he was saying was in fact euthanasia

and, if so, what he was saying was illegal. His next comment — I thought it was grotesque. He said, 'it's not as if she is going to do much.'"

Mrs Bleasdale said she asked the doctor to accompany her to the office and made clear she would play no part in carrying out his instructions. "I emphatically said I will make no change in my own approach and that if he wished to make any written changes he should accompany me to the office and write in her care plan that I would not be a party to it."

Dr Taylor, 51, denies serious profes-

sional misconduct for allegedly ordering staff at the home to starve the patient and let her "slip away". Some staff defied him and continued to administer Mrs Ormerod's prescribed supplement until the supply ran out.

Mrs Bleasdale, who unexpectedly left her job at the nursing home four days after the meeting with the doctor, said that over preceding months there had been no significant change in the patient's condition, that she retained her ability to swallow and communicate by squeezing the nurses' hands. Mrs Bleasdale said that the doctor had not asked her views on Mrs Ormerod's condition.

The case continues.



Taylor: denies misconduct

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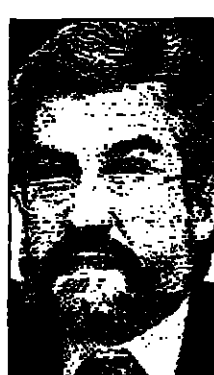
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COMMISSION IN CRISIS



Jacques Santer
President of the
Commission
Luxembourg

Accused of setting up an off-shore company to dismantle North Sea oil platform with EU funding. Report said allegations were unfounded but accused his administration of mismanagement.



Manuel Marín
Mediterranean, Near
and Middle East
Spain

Accused of nepotism by appointing his wife to a Commission post. Report found "no irregularity".



Martin Bangemann
Industrial Affairs
Germany

Untainted. Known for his lavish lifestyle and long lunches. He does not wish to be re-nominated, and is looking forward to his retirement.



Sir Leon Brittan
External Relations
Britain

Untainted. Response: Sir Leon said the report was "a disaster" which will "require speed and ruthless determination to deal with."



Karel Van Miert
Competition Policy
Belgium

Untainted. Response: denounced the report as unfair.

Santer fails to comprehend his disgrace

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS

THE COMMISSION

IN A fit of red-faced pique, Jacques Santer offered yesterday a glimpse of the psychic chasm that lies between the new management style desired by the European Union's reformers and the cosy old ways that sealed the downfall of the Brussels executive.

While Britain and other governments hailed what they saw as a healthy purge and the European Parliament basked in its role as democratic scourge, the genial President of the European Commission could not comprehend his political disgrace. "I am offended," he said. It was outrageous that the Commission had been accused by the independent inquiry of general irresponsibility, the most devastating charge levelled at his team on Monday. "This conclusion was perfectly unjustified."

The affair, he insisted, was the fault of the media which had "harassed" the Commission; it was, he suggested, the fault of unnamed enemies who had had a hand in drafting a wide condemnation that bore no relation to the meagre sins identified among his 19 Commissioners. That amounted, he said, to only one confirmed case of cronyism.

Mr Santer also pointed the finger straight at Jacques Delors, the French socialist whom he succeeded as Pres-

ident in 1995. Four of the six main cases of abuse identified had their origins in the Delors regime, he said. Mr Santer said the crisis should trigger reform, but he had personally been cleared and was ready to carry on as President.

In Parliament, down the hill from the Commission's headquarters, Alan Donnelly, leader of the British Labour group, said: "He is obviously in denial." Mr Santer's performance drew embarrassed laughter from career officials in the 17,000-strong institution. However, some EU civil servants share his view that the Commission is a victim of an "Anglo-Saxon political crusade".

A clash of European cultural tradition between north and south is visible in the struggle. Edith Cresson, the most disgraced Commissioner, deplored the way the Germans had joined the northerners in a Protestant crusade against

the southern culture of state administration.

Mme Cresson has a point because it was Edward McMillan-Scott, now the Tory leader in the Parliament, who had opened the first fraud offensive eight years ago. The pressure for reform rose with a northward shift when Sweden and Finland joined in 1995.

The north-south differences were visible yesterday. Sauli Niinistö, the Finnish Finance Minister, hailed the mass resignation as "good news". Pierre Schörl, a leading member of the Swedish Government, said: "What we have now is EU parliamentarism." Neil Kinnock, one of the British Commissioners, said the crisis "was a watershed and will ensure reform".

On the other side, Greece said it wanted the Santer team to stay on. Madrid regretted the unnecessary creation of an "institutional vacuum".

Taking a longer view, seasoned Brussels hands see the battle over the Commission as the consolidation of a shift in EU power to the Council of Ministers and Parliament. After a heady decade of empire-building under M Delors, the would-be unelected government of Europe had been brought well under the wing of the national governments.

Simon Jenkins: page 20
Leading article and
Letters: page 21



Jacques Santer, the President who is resigning with his Commission, attacks the report's conclusions at a Brussels press conference yesterday

All-day fight fails to defeat the wolves

BY CHARLES BREMNER

AS THE dust settled yesterday from the collective exit of the Brussels executive, it emerged that Jacques Santer and his team had hoped until late on Monday night to stave off the fate of mass resignation.

The mood in the Commission was one of relative relief early that day after independent auditors had allowed individual Commissioners to read the sections dealing with their cases. The report found that none had been personally dishonest or had benefited from fraud.

Mr Santer had hoped to tough out the storm, casting one or two Commis-

sioners to Parliament's wolves. In the early evening that hope turned to crisis as the full report was turned over, with its devastating conclusions on the Commission's wholesale failure of leadership.

In a first round of meetings, some Commissioners argued for a mass exit as the only solution. Among those were Yves-Thibault de Silguy and Edith Cresson, the Commissioner held most personally responsible for wrongdoing. Mme Cresson insisted that there was no case for her to stand down alone, as suggested widely, Com-

mission sources said. "She acted as if she was no more involved than anyone," said a source.

However, the Commissioners reviewed several options, notably a suggestion from Sir Leon Brittan, the senior British Commissioner, for a selective cull that would remove Mr Santer and Mme Cresson, according to sources. Parliament's main political groups were calling for the same.

Ritt Bjerregaard, the combative Danish Commissioner, was on his own in seeking a mass fight against any resignations.

However, as the evening wore on, Parliament's dominant Socialist group heard that the French Government was backing Mme Cresson.

That prompted Pauline Green, the Socialist leader, to harden the parliamentary line, demanding the wholesale departure of the Commission.

Word of that demand amounted to a coup de grace for Mr Santer's team. Gathered in full session at 10.20pm, Commissioner after Commissioner took the floor, calling for a wholesale resignation.

Sir Leon described the situation yesterday as "a disaster" that requires speed and ruthless determination to deal with.

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EXPOSE

**The barbaric treat
of dogs in Asia.**

WSPA has uncovered a shocking secret about the treatment of dogs in Asia. In a factory farm, thousands of dogs are kept in filthy, overcrowded cages. They are so tightly packed that they can barely move. Disease and starvation are rampant. Local carers, who are supposed to look after the dogs, are often paid in kind, receiving food from the factory farm. Even "kennel" dogs, which are supposed to be kept in clean, healthy conditions, are often treated with barbaric, inhumane protection laws. The dogs are kept in a state of constant fear and desperation.

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COMMISSION IN CRISIS



Hans van den Broek
Former Soviet Union,
East and C. Europe
The Netherlands

Untainted.
His department has, however, been the subject of widespread criticism over misspent aid to Eastern and Central Europe.



João de Deus Pinheiro
Africa, Caribbean and
Pacific
Portugal

Accused of nepotism.
The report concluded:
"It would have been prudent if he had not appointed his own brother-in-law."



Padraig Flynn
Employment and
Social Affairs
Ireland

Untainted.
Mr Flynn has, however, been seriously damaged by revelations that he accepted cash contributions for his party's elections campaigns.



Marcelino Oreja
Institutional Affairs
Spain

Untainted.
Once described as the prototype of a "super-annuated commissioner."



Anita Gradin
Immigration and
Judicial Affairs
Sweden

Untainted.
Response: "We have to accept, even myself, some of the criticism. But it's a bit ironic that we were the first Commission to try to clean things up."

Cresson is damned over dentist crony

By CHARLES BREMNER and SUSAN BELL

EDITH CRESSON is the only Commissioner accused of nepotism — for having employed her long-standing dentist friend, Dr René Berthelot, in a fictitious post on a contract investigators called "manifestly irregular".

Charges against the Commission went far beyond Mme Cresson's fondness for appointing friends to important jobs and her indifference to abuses by subordinates, but it was her refusal to accept any blame before Parliament's inquiries that set in motion the events that led to the independent auditors' devastating report. For many MEPs, the

high-handed manner of the late President Mitterrand's one-time favourite symbolised all the sins that they saw in the Commission's culture of unaccountability.

Monday's report vindicated that view, damning her not only over her dentist friend, but also for, in effect, lying to Parliament and President Santer over an emerging scandal in the training administration she headed.

The majority of missions the dentist undertook on Mme Cresson's instructions were to Châtelleraut, where the French Commissioner was Mayor until 1997, leading investigators to conclude that they could be considered "proof of the fictitious nature of his tasks". Out of 17 business trips, 13 were to Mme Cresson's fief, where he spent at least 41 days in the town at EC expense. The investigators found that he had barely 24 pages to show for 18 months' work, during which time he was paid Fr390,000 (about £39,000).

His meagre documentation, described in the report as "vague", never revealed properly the reason for his visits. In a letter to Dr Berthelot on July 26, 1995, offering him a six-month contract with the Commission as a "scientific adviser", no specific mission was

mentioned, despite EC instructions to the contrary. The letter refers to his "spontaneous application" for the post, despite his having been employed at Mme Cresson's request. His contract was extended until August 31, 1996 and again until February 28, 1997. When asked about his role by Parliament budget inspectors last October, Mme Cresson said: "As a politician, it seemed absolutely legitimate to call on external advisers, some of whom I know well."

As an exercise in self-destruction, the blunt-spoken socialist could hardly have done better than blame all her

troubles on "a German-inspired bid to damage France". In a belated attempt to deploy her untested charm with politicians and journalists, she sat in her Brussels flat recently, elegant in a silk trouser suit, and confided astonishment over "a mysterious and murky plot" to do her down.

Mme Cresson became France's first woman Prime Minister in May 1991 — and during a stormy ten months held the dubious distinction of being the most unpopular of the Fifth Republic.

There was speculation that M. Mitterrand's relationship with the fiery redhead went beyond mere friendship. When he ditched her in 1992, she blamed a "macho plot".



Cresson said that attacks on her were part of a "murky" German-inspired plot to damage France

Gravy train trundles on

By CHARLES BREMNER

RETIREMENT DEALS

THE Commissioners now leaving Brussels may have lost political face, but they can probably count on comfortable retirements, thanks to the lavish traditions of Brussels.

Although service for a full five-year term is normally required to qualify for full pension rights, it is thought that the outgoing team will enjoy most of the usual benefits. Under staff rules, a departing Commissioner gets 22.5 per cent of final salary for life, which amounts to nearly £30,000 a year.

Commissioners are also eligible to receive half their £125,000 basic salary for three years, to enable them to re-adjust to normal life. On top of that they get allowances of up to £6,000 a year to cover their families. The total for the

golden handshake, if paid in full, would amount to about £300,000 per Commissioner for the period of the next three years.

This gravy train of golden handshakes and life-long gold-plated pensions is likely to come to a halt under staff reforms that will emerge from the onslaught from the Parliament and member states.

The most scandalous abuse has been the provision that allows senior Commission officials to enjoy high proportions of their salary even when forced to resign in disgrace. Under an article of the existing staff regulations Commission staff can be forced to take early retirement but are still guaranteed incomes may be considered lavish.



Berthelot: 24-page report took him 18 months

□ Javier Solana: Spanish former Foreign Minister is favourite. His widely held belief that the job should go to a socialist from a southern European state.
□ Romano Prodi: Italian former Prime Minister admired for enforcing rigour required to enable Italy to qualify for euro membership. But as a centrist politician he may not be socialist enough.
□ Antonio Guterres: Said to be one of Tony Blair's favourites, the Portuguese Prime Minister is an exponent of the New Labour-style "third

way". He says he does not want the job.

□ Giuliano Amato: Italian former Prime Minister. Hampered by ties with Bettino Craxi, the exiled socialist leader wanted by the police.

□ Felipe González: Spanish socialist former Prime Minister is tainted by scandals over anti-terrorist death squads.

□ Wim Kok: Dutch Prime Minister says he does not want the job. But his candidature may please Germany. Dutch economy has emerged as a healthy left-wing model, with low unemployment.



EXPOSED!

The barbaric treatment of dogs in Asia.
WSPA has uncovered gruesome practices in Asia's factory farms, where dogs are bred to meet the intense demand for pets. The dogs are crammed so tightly into cages that their limbs are intertwined. Disease and starvation are rife. Some have their vocal cords cut to reduce noise. Many end up slaughtered for meat by being electrocuted or even skinned alive. WSPA is working to end these barbaric practices and introduce stronger animal protection laws throughout Asia. But we desperately need your support.

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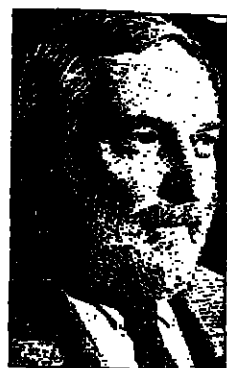
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COMMISSION IN CRISIS



Franz Fischler
Agriculture
Austria

Untainted by the scandal. Response: agreed to the mass resignation out of solidarity with fellow Commissioners.



Emma Bonino
Consumer affairs and humanitarian aid
Italy

Untainted. Response: she described the mass resignation as a "political gesture" and the commissioners as "martyrs" in the European cause.



Yves-Thibault de Silguy
Economic affairs
France

Untainted. A graduate of France's elite administrative university, Ecole Nationale d'Administration, he has the traditional haughty bearing of the French political elite.



Erkki Liikanen
Budget
Finland

Accused of abusing his position to secure EU contracts for his wife. Report found the allegations "were unfounded".



Christos Papoutsis
Energy
Greece

Untainted. Little known outside Greece, he hopes to use his commission job as a stepping stone to the more coveted prize of Greek Prime Minister.

Blair says merit must decide who gets the top jobs

By Roland Watson
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR last night proposed sweeping changes to the personnel, management and culture of the European Commission as he used the power vacuum in Brussels to press the case for reform.

The Prime Minister handed his plans to Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, in Downing Street last night in the hope that they would be tabled for debate at next week's Berlin summit. Downing Street and Foreign Office staff have been working on the proposals for some months, but seized their moment yesterday after the mass resignation of the 20 European commissioners on Monday night.

In a Commons statement, Mr Blair told MPs the proposals were designed to deal with the "systemic failings in the commission" which he said had been tolerated for too

long. His officials stressed that reform, and speedy reform at that, was critical to repairing the credibility of the commission. The Prime Minister's official spokesman compared the Brussels bureaucracy to "Lambeth council in the 1980s".

Mr Blair himself highlighted the way senior officials were appointed as one of the key areas. "The top jobs should go to the top people," Mr Blair told the Commons. "Merit and merit alone should decide." His comments were aimed at the quota system which tries to share senior posts around the 15 member states.

At the two top levels, the 229 posts are shared out roughly according to population. Britain has seven grade A1 officials and 23 at grade A2, the same as Germany, whereas Greece has two and six respec-

tively and Finland has one and five. At other levels the quota system is less rigid, but remains semi-official.

In contrast, the British proposals stress the need for transparency at all levels, and appointment based on a proven ability to do the job.

As part of a "new contract" between the commission and the Council of Ministers, the paper includes proposals to make director-generals, the senior civil servants who head each of the commission's departments, much more closely accountable for their department's record.

The report which sparked the mass resignation of commissioners highlighted the lack of responsibility among officials for either their budget or the effect of their department's measures. The British paper suggests that Brussels adopts a relationship between officials and the Council of Ministers similar to that in the UK where Whitehall permanent secretaries are accountable to Parliament.

The British plan would also slim down the Brussels bureaucracy, particularly at senior level, over a number of years. Mr Blair told MPs: "There will, no doubt, be those who see this as just another chance to bash Europe. Intelligently seen, this is in fact an opportunity to make changes which many of us believe and have argued are long overdue."

Simon Jenkins, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Tony Blair and Gerhard Schröder outside 10 Downing Street yesterday, where the two leaders met for talks

Inherent flaws may prevent reform

Tony Blair talked tough over the European Commission. That was both right in itself and politically necessary. Far-reaching changes are required both in the leadership of the commission and its structure. But can Mr Blair deliver?

In the past, the commission has brushed aside charges of fraud and mismanagement. Responsibility has been evaded, the sums involved have been dismissed as trivial and blame has been shifted to member countries.

Unusually for a European document, the latest report is clearly written and blunt. The indictment against Edith Cresson for favouritism and for failing to act in response to "known serious and continuing irregularities" is damning. Jacques Santer's errors

Peter Riddell
ON POLITICS

were of omission rather than commission. But he is criticised for neglect and his attempt to shrug off responsibility was pathetic.

The new President must, in Mr Blair's words, be "a political heavyweight". The European leaders may appoint a high-quality replacement this time in response to the crisis.

However, the system of appointing commissioners is inherently flawed. As long as nominations of commissioners are made by member states and the allocation of portfolios, including the Presi-

dent, results from haggling among heads of government, merit will come a distant second to domestic political factors. Who has to be rewarded, fobbed off, cut? Mr Blair has rejected any change in the system of nomination.

The Prime Minister made a number of sensible and overdue suggestions about improving methods of financial control and management. Some can be implemented quickly without treaty changes.

Reform of multinational organisations is, however, never straightforward, as has been shown at the UN in New York and its various agencies. Appointments and promotions are fixed in relation to national quotas, to ensure that states, particularly smaller ones, have a "fair" share. That works against giving "the top

jobs to the top people". In a perverse way, the European Commission, like the UN, represents a careful balancing of various national interests rather than the nucleus of a European super-state where national identities do not matter. Changing the culture will be hard since any criticism of a senior official can be presented as an attack on any member country.

Mr Blair argued that this time his call for reform had echoes across Europe. It may have in the short term. But the latest upheavals — and Mr Blair's response — have raised the stakes. Reform of the commission has now become a crucial part of the Government's campaign to convince the British public of the advantages of Europe ahead of the referendum on the euro.

Sir Edward Heath, the former Tory Prime Minister, said that the most important thing to recognise was that it was "the first time the European Parliament has been prepared to act decisively. Things will never be the same again."

Hague seeks new code of conduct

COMMONS DEBATE

By James Landale
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE demanded a binding code of conduct for the appointment of senior officials within the commission yesterday.

Replying to Tony Blair's statement in the Commons, the Tory leader welcomed the Prime Minister's proposals but said: "Will you consider adding to your list a binding code of conduct to prevent personal appointments of commissioners and to stamp out nepotism, and an agreement that the Parliament should be allowed to sack individual commissioners guilty of misconduct?"

At present, the Parliament can demand the resignation of the entire commission. Mr Hague added that a declaration of financial interests should be established for individual commissioners.

John Major, the former Tory Prime Minister, said: "What this report throws up is an institutional problem that has long existed in the EU. Isn't one of the most important reforms, many years overdue, a clear-cut financial accountability by the commission ideally to the member states of the EU or to a body that reports directly to the member states?"

Sir Edward Heath, the former Tory Prime Minister, said that the most important thing to recognise was that it was "the first time the European Parliament has been prepared to act decisively. Things will never be the same again."

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- All senior appointments to be made on merit, and not according to the semi-official quota system which seeks to ensure that all 15 countries are fairly represented.
- Top civil servants to be directly accountable for the performance of their departments.
- An independent fraud office with full powers of investigation.
- Stricter guidelines on the awarding of outside contracts.
- Stricter employment contracts, making it easier to move or dismiss under-performing officials.
- A complete overhaul of the approval and auditing of the commission, coupled with a new system for financial management and spending programmes.

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Hope fades for new breed of 'loser lads'

By ADAM SHERWIN

BRITAIN has produced a class of "loser lads" who believe they will fail at school, work and life, a survey claims. Although magazines aimed at young men, such as *Loaded*, promote a world of consumer-based fun, the real experiences of "lads" are very different. Teenage boys are struggling to make a mark on a society that places increasing value on the skills of women, says the study from the *Tomorrow's Men* project supported by Oxford University. As a result, more are drifting into crime and may contemplate suicide.

The survey was based on anonymous interviews with 1,400 males, aged 13 to 19, from across Britain. The aim was to understand their hopes, worries and experiences by asking them about parents, school, work and gender equality. The study, funded by the clothing retailer Topman, found that many adolescents had low self-esteem, which was illustrated by lack of confidence, self-motivation or optimism. The absence of a father, or a father figure, was key to starting this process. Schools in which teachers ignored the problems of boys and failed to implement an anti-bullying policy exacerbated negative feelings.

Such boys, who fall into a category called "Low Can-do" in the report, amounted to 12 per cent of the sample. Of them, 20 per cent have been in trouble with the police, 17 per cent are deeply alienated from school and 11 per cent are depressed or even suicidal.

Boys in this group often respond to their predicament and the success of young women by over-emphasising "macho" behaviour in front of women. They also find it hardest to accept women's emerging equality at work and at home and may try to encourage girlfriends to give up their aspirations.

The survey also found that

25 per cent of boys, described as "Can-do", are positive and motivated. The researchers say, however, "Meeting the needs of 'Low Can-do' boys is urgent for they show a range of behaviours that impact on society."

The youths questioned for the report were invited to respond to newspaper adverts and questionnaires sent to schools and youth clubs.

A sample of boys who took part agreed to speak about their experiences. Sam, 16, said: "I got kicked out of sixth-form college. The tutors said I wasn't doing as well as the others and they thought I should leave. I am now working on a farm." Sam felt that girls had an advantage at school. "They

become teachers' pets. Boys seem to get into more trouble," he said. Parents had a role to play, said Piran, 16. "If parents encourage you then it helps you to believe that you can achieve. Mine did." Danny, a 17-year-old, said: "You fail an induction test at school, and the teachers say you are a failure. They do not show an interest after that." Danny wanted to achieve despite the example of his parents. "They have not made much of their lives. I don't really want to go the same way."

"I would have preferred to stay on at college but now I have to find a job. There is nothing on the cards at the job-centre for me. But I want to break out of my family loop." He had no role models to look up to, or to go to for advice. "Every older male relative I know is on the dole."

Adrienne Katz, the project's research director, believes that the plight of teenage boys can only be understood by listening to them. "We need to hear their views," she said.

"Boys can be decisive and proud. They are also funny and loyal, but a number lack confidence."



Some of the teenagers who took part in the survey, which found that many suffered from low self-esteem. Only a quarter felt optimistic about their prospects



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Athlete adds MBE to her medal haul

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE athlete Denise Lewis was as nervous receiving the insignia of her MBE from the Queen yesterday as she was when on the starting line at a championship.

"I calmed myself down as I was waiting but when I saw the Queen there was this wave of emotion and I didn't really know what to say to her," she said at Buckingham Palace.

The gold medalist in last year's European and Commonwealth heptathlons said her honour was "beautiful and fantastic". She was accompanied by her mother, Joan, her grandmother, Edna, and her boyfriend, Jonathan Kron.

Miss Lewis, 26, said she was training hard to achieve her goal of a gold medal at the Sydney Olympics next year.

The actress Maureen Lipman, who was appointed a CBE, said the occasion had lifted her spirits. "I was feeling rather ill on the way here and thought I wouldn't be able to go up and get the award. I told my mother she

would have to go up instead and she said she would but only if she could wear my hat. But it's amazing how getting a CBE can cheer you right up," said Miss Lipman, 52, who received the award for services to comedy and drama.

Also with her were her daughter and her husband, the playwright Jack Rosenthal, who in 1993 was appointed CBE. "We are now a two-commander family — we should be looking for a frigate," the actress joked.

The former England football captain and Newcastle United player Stuart Pearce received the insignia of the MBE. "The Queen seemed to be very knowledgeable about football but she didn't mention if she was a fan," he said.

The broadcast journalist Trevor Phillips, 45, who was appointed OBE, said it was remarkable how "unsuffly" the investiture was. Nicholas Serota, the director of the Tate Gallery, was knighted for services to the visual arts.



Denise Lewis with her MBE insignia: "When I saw the Queen there was this wave of emotion — I didn't know what to say"

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مكتبة النور

Time is up for the traditional lunch hour

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

THE traditional lunch "hour" is disappearing from the working day as more employees say they are too busy to take a break.

A study, published today by the British Heart Foundation, says that the culture of long hours dominant in the workplace is putting excessive pressures on people's health, depriving them of rest, relaxation and exercise and making them fat.

More than half of workers surveyed said they took less than 30 minutes for lunch. Women are the most pressured, with a third saying that they did not have a lunch break at all.

More than a third of the 659 between 25 and 50 said they believed that work was adversely affecting their health. Of these, nearly a third said that they had gained weight because of their job.

Ladies enter the Long Room



Winning team: Jackie Court, Sheila Hill, Rachael Heyhoe Flint, Netta Rheinberg, Norma Izard, in the front row; and behind them, Diana Rait Kerr, Carole Cornthwaite and Audrey Collins, in the Long Room yesterday

The male preserve at Lord's falls as the MCC names its first women members, reports Claudia Joseph

TWO former England cricket captains strode into the Long Room yesterday when the first women members of the MCC entered that hallowed hall of Lord's.

The club, which last year finally voted to admit women to its ranks, yesterday named its first ten honorary women members. Eight were at Lord's yesterday, including Rachael Heyhoe Flint, who led the national team for ten years, and Carole Cornthwaite, captain in the 1980s. Betty Archdale, who 65 years ago captained the first England women's touring team to Australia and New Zealand, is also among the ten.

Mrs Heyhoe Flint, 59, recalled that the late cricket commentator Brian Johnston had predicted yesterday's achievement. She said: "I might be referred to as the catalyst because in 1991 I had the temerity to apply to become a member. I wish Johnners was here today because he kept saying to me: 'It will eventually happen but I doubt whether I shall see it in my lifetime.' This means as much to me as when I played here for the first time in 1976 against Australia."

The ten, chosen by a sub-committee, also include Sheila Hill, former chairman of the Women's Cricket Association Umpires and Scorers Sub-Committee; Diana Rait Kerr, former curator of the MCC

museum; Netta Rheinberg, former secretary of the Women's Cricket Association; Edna Barker, former captain of South of England; Audrey Collins and Norma Izard, former presidents of the association; and Jackie Court, capped for England 40 times.

Many names had been considered, said Roger Knight, the MCC secretary, and no one disputed that the ten should be members. Mrs Cornthwaite, a senior coach and England Under-21s selector, who took a record 25 catches in Test matches, said she had had no idea she was to be admitted.

The arrival of women at Lord's marks the culmination of a long campaign by Mr Johnston and Sir Tim Rice to admit female members. Yesterday Sir Tim said it had taken time to win people round. "I never wanted to steam in and say — you have to do this. The MCC has an image of crusty old chaps, but it's not."

MCC members will also be allowed to invite women guests to matches. The first MCC women's team will take to the field on May 11 in East Molesey, Surrey. Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge, the former England captain, said: "I think it's a wonderful day and I look forward to the day when the MCC ladies team makes a big impact in the game."

President's welcome, page 46

NEWS IN BRIEF

Molester GP cleared of rape

Jurors cleared a family doctor of raping a girl of 15 yesterday, then gasped when they discovered that he was awaiting sentence for molesting her. At Manchester Crown Court, Dominic Jackson, 47, who ran a surgery in Adswold, near Stockport, had admitted indecent assault but opted to face a jury on the more serious charge. The jury was not told of the guilty plea until Maurice Greene, for the prosecution, stood to tell the court once they had delivered their verdict. Sentence on Jackson, who now lives in Slough, Berkshire, was adjourned for reports.

Hidden treasure

A little-known Georgian mansion has been voted Britain's favourite historic house. Pen-carrow House, near Bodmin, Cornwall, is the home of the Molesworth-St Aubyn family. It was honoured in the National Heritage Awards.

Art sold as scrap

A £250,000 working sculpture by the late Rowland Emmet, *A Quiet Afternoon in Cloud Cuckoo Valley*, which was stolen from a warehouse in Hertfordshire, was recovered when a dealer reported that he had paid £100 for it for scrap.

Health crust

A former butcher whose pork pies helped to make him a millionaire has left most of his £6 million estate to Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Montagu Hospital NHS Trust. Fred Green, 95, had sold his business to Asda.

Buyers promise to live with peals

By SIMON DE BRUNELLES

THE buyers of 12 expensive homes being built in a south Devon village will be required to sign a pledge promising not to complain about the bells of the 13th-century All Saints Church less than 50 yards away.

Parish councillors in Thurlestone in South Hams mounted the pre-emptive strike against the city folk likely to snap up the £345,000 houses because local people were worried that they might have unrealistic expectations of peace and quiet. After Rock in Cornwall, Thurlestone is the most expensive resort in the South West. One resident said: "There is a very exclusive golf club and in the summer there are more big industrialists there than at the CBI conference."

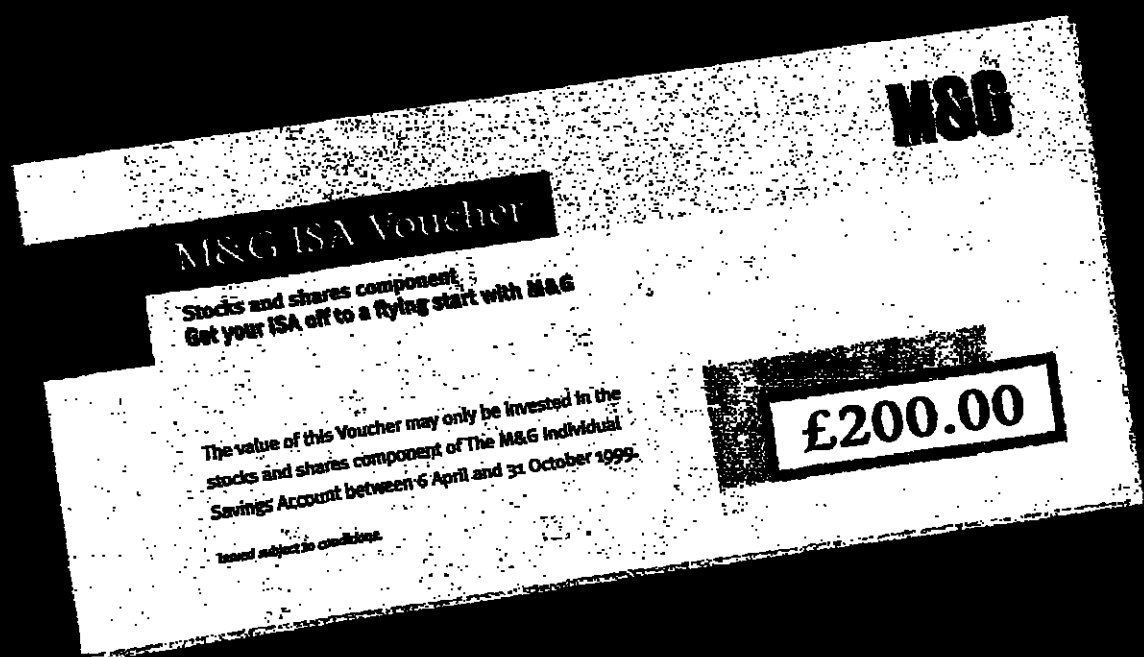
Buyers of the three new homes and the nine converted from cattle sheds must endure 90 minutes of bell-ringing practice every Thursday evening, as well as peals during Sunday services, weddings and funerals.

The special clause was written into the deeds of the new homes at the request of the parish council and the parochial church council, and will bar all future owners from taking any legal action against the bells.

Derrick Yeoman, a parish councillor who has been a bell-ringer all his life, said: "There have been many cases of people moving into the countryside and then complaining about the noises or smells."

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Police stations on the move

Police may be told to close redundant stations

Survey of the efficiency of property police in Britain to be published

How The Times previewed the report in September

Audit Commission says buildings are out of date and in the wrong place, reports Stewart Tendler

TOO many police stations are out of date, under-used and in the wrong place, according to the Audit Commission.

Police buildings worth at least £110 million are already up for sale and the commission believes that forces could find millions more to bolster their budgets in a rationalisation programme in England and Wales.

In a report published today the commission suggests that instead of traditional stations, police could share centres with fire brigades or neighbouring forces and make use of video links for routine inquiries.

The commission found that "there is a poor fit between the estate and the demands of operational policing in the 21st century". Buildings are in the wrong place because of population shifts, often from city centres; they are the wrong size or are incompatible with modern computer technology.

The report, *Action Stations*, states that the police have 2,700 operational sites and 4,000 police houses or flats in England and Wales worth a minimum of £2.6 billion. A fifth of the 2,000 stations were built before 1931 and only 13 per cent have been built since 1980. Forces have tried to save money by postponing maintenance and repairs, costing £205 million are needed.

Forces admitted to the commission that 9 per cent of stations were in the wrong place.

One in Hertford is hard to reach because of a new traffic system. Police in Gateshead closed a rural station on the edge of the town because it had not had a visit from the public for 12 months.

Even when forces build new stations to match shifts in population, they can still get it wrong. One spent £5 million for a station on the outskirts of a city to service a new development but the expansion never came.

Looking at public needs, the commission quotes a survey by the Northamptonshire force which found that less than 4 per cent of 300 visitors to stations went to report a crime; lost and found inquiries were the main business. Many urban stations get a lot of people asking for directions, and the commission found that few forces had responded with the obvious solution of putting a map outside.

The commission found that two thirds of stations are open to the public but that only 25 per cent are open 24 hours a day. Nine hundred have cells but only 600 are currently 24-hour custody centres. Inside the stations, up to 30 per cent of space can be lost to non-operational functions such as canteens and gymnasiums. A survey of 12 stations found that on average they had 16 per cent of their space unused.

Looking to the future, the



On the road to the future: the Pulse caravan that replaced the Birtley police station is not universally popular

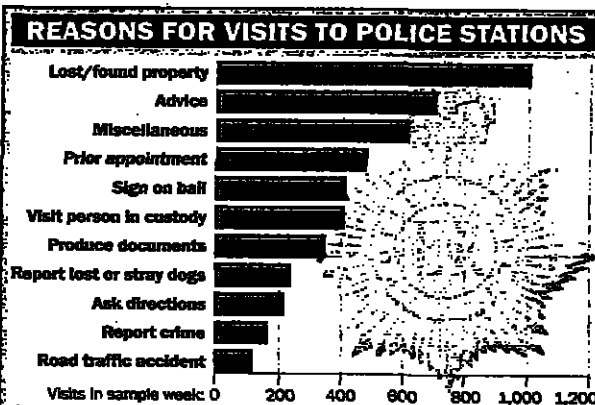
commission points to an "interactive" police box opened by Lothian and Borders Police in Princes Street, Edinburgh. The former police box now provides a 24-hour service to the public with a touch-sensitive screen providing emergency messages and maps. It has a two-way link to enable callers to talk to an officer. The box had 32,000 callers in the first two months of operation.

The commission also praises Greater Manchester Police for a property review which concluded that it had 20 per cent more accommodation than it needed. The force plans to close 15 stations and make use of "interactive" links.

Sussex Police has opened a new patrol centre for Eastbourne in an industrial unit on the edge of the town. This has removed overcrowding in the town's central station and put operational staff together.

Commenting on the report, Andrew Foster, Controller of the Audit Commission, said: "If police forces are to meet the public's expectations of a modern and accessible service, they need to extract greater value from their buildings before the passing of time turns them into liabilities."

Welcoming the commission's findings, Paul Boateng, Minister of State at the Home Office, said better management of buildings would benefit the public and release millions of pounds for frontline policing.



Rural office is closed but the beat goes on

BY STEWART TENDLER AND PAUL WILKINSON

IN 12 months not one member of the public crossed the threshold of Birtley police station on the outskirts of Gateshead in Northumbria. Outside there was a telephone enabling people to call a control centre when the station was unmanned, but no one used that either. Yet the area suffered from low-level disorder.

Today the police win praise from the Audit Commission for the way they replaced the station with an operation called Pulse, in which a police caravan tours local communities. The report says that the force managed the change without incurring hostility from the public. However, that is not a universal view.

Kathy King, a Liberal Democrat councillor, said: "It was one of the most unpopular decisions ever in Birtley. The station was used by the police. Everyone knew the bobbies and the bobbies knew us. Everyone, especially elderly people, felt safe in the knowledge that we had two officers looking out for us. Now our nearest station is eight miles away, you have to wait up to an hour for a policeman to turn up at your door. Crime has increased. People feel deserted."

There was an overlap of six months to try out the change. The caravan is a base for patrols, crime-prevention advice and discussions on crime problems. It spends one or two days at each site on a six-

month rota. The sites were picked as problem areas. When the team of five officers is on patrol, the caravan is manned by a civilian. Officials from council housing, engineering, welfare and education departments can attend.

Ms King said: "There are more than 15,000 residents in Birtley and surrounding areas who relied on the station for protection. People like to be able to see a policeman. On Friday night, shop windows in Birtley High Street were smashed after a skirmish outside a pub and it was an age before the police turned up."

"We are assigned beat officers but with shift-change patterns they are nowhere near at the times when we need them most."

Superintendent Brian Graham, the chief of the Gateshead West division, said: "In my view the community-type office was not working. It was easier for people to ring from home than to travel to the station to do the same thing. The only time police officers were there was when they were catching up on community activities or paperwork."

"We set up the Pulse unit to provide effective policing in the area. We hold four ward surgeries a month in Birtley so people can meet a police officer face to face if they want to. It has had a favourable response from the public and crime is falling as a result."

New law to crack down on juvenile delinquents

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN as young as 12 will be a main target of a new government measure aimed at curbing harassment and bad behaviour on housing estates and the streets.

From April 1, police and local authorities will be able to apply to the courts for Anti-social Behaviour Orders, which bar individuals from causing harassment, alarm or distress to others.

Professional witnesses will be used to gather evidence in support of applications against youths and adults involved in persistent abuse against homosexuals, ethnic

minorities, the elderly, the mentally ill or the disabled. The orders will also be used against families who terrorise estates that they consider to be their "patch", intimidating neighbours and forcing residents to move away.

The maximum term for the order will be for two years and a breach will be a criminal offence punishable by up to five years in prison.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said that the orders were intended to tackle the failure of people including parents to take responsibility for their own or their children's ac-

tions. "We would expect them to be used quite routinely against that middle range of 12 to 17-year-olds, where experience shows they may go on to commit serious acts of antisocial behaviour, some times with adult assistance, sometimes without," he said.

Mr Straw told a conference at Westminster that the Government would not allow the perceived lack of recreational facilities for young people to be used as an excuse for antisocial behaviour, by which teenagers intimidate the public and spoil the quality of people's lives.

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MICHAEL MOORE: THE AWFUL TRUTH

SERIOUS COMEDY

FBI to oversee Ulster bomb investigation

THE RUC has taken the unprecedented step of asking an English police officer and the American FBI to oversee the investigation into the car-bomb murder of Rosemary Nelson in order to counter republican allegations of RUC collusion.

David Phillips, Kent's Chief Constable, is to head the investigation and late on Monday night Sir Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC's Chief Constable, contacted Louis Fresh, the FBI director, to invite FBI participation. The FBI's exact role has yet to be decided but it will contribute independence as well as expertise.

Sir Ronnie is determined not only to track down the killers of the prominent lawyer, but to disprove the Sinn Féin charges that the RUC was itself party to the murder. He said that there would be no constraints placed on Mr Phillips and that his investigation would not only be "the most meticulous it can be, but transparently obvious as such".

The Red Hand Defenders, a loyalist splinter group, has claimed responsibility for the murder but Sinn Féin spokesmen continued to accuse the RUC of collusion yesterday and mounted demonstrations outside police stations.

Sinn Féin has been cam-

Outsiders enlisted to meet need for a transparent inquiry, report Martin Fletcher and Ian Brodie

paing furiously for the RUC to be disbanded. It seized on Mrs Nelson's past claims to have been threatened by RUC officers and said the RUC had rejected her request for protection even though her work for high-profile republican clients made her an obvious target.

"It is intolerable that the RUC who threatened Rosemary Nelson's life should then have had the ability to deny her adequate security," Francis Molloy, a Sinn Féin Assemblyman, said. "Those who quite deliberately left Rosemary Nelson exposed and vulnerable to attack despite the very obvious threat to her life are as much responsible for her death as those who carried out the actual assassination."

The RUC and the Northern Ireland Office insisted Mrs Nelson had never applied for

protection. Last year others had done so on her behalf but she was not judged to be sufficiently at risk.

Sources described the allegations of collusion as "absolute nonsense" and doubted that Mrs Nelson would have accepted protection.

A senior Metropolitan Police officer recently investigated Mrs Nelson's claims that the RUC had harassed and threatened her but his report has not yet been published.

Sir Ronnie cast doubt on whether the Red Hand Defenders carried out the murder by themselves when he confirmed that the bomb was more sophisticated than anything they had used previously. The speculation was that they may have been helped by disgruntled members of other loyalist paramilitary groups.

The murder has cast a pall over today's St Patrick's Day celebrations in Washington and complicated President Clinton's task as he tries to help to resolve the decommissioning deadlock in private meetings with David Trimble and Gerry Adams.

Speaking in New York, George Mitchell, the former US senator who chaired the Stormont peace talks, intensified the pressure on the men



Paddy McGee, second left, helping to carry his daughter's coffin into her house in Lurgan yesterday. Hundreds called to pay their respects to the family

when he declared: "History will not forgive them if an agreement, once reached, is not implemented. We must be understanding, we must be patient, we must be tolerant, but we must also be insistent as we say to

those leaders: 'You have done much but you must do more,' he said.

In Washington Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said that the bombers would not destroy the Good Friday accord.

Education could not buy a life of peace

ROSEMARY NELSON'S father struggled with his grief as he helped to carry his daughter's coffin into her home yesterday. Friends said that Paddy McGee had worked hard all his life to try to keep his children distant from the Troubles, spending much of the money he earned as a factory worker on their education.

He and his wife, Sheila, were deeply proud of Rosemary's middle-class lifestyle and success as a solicitor. That she was murdered because of her education was difficult to bear.

"It's terrible, really terrible what has happened," Mrs Nelson's brother-in-law said. A cousin, who declined to be named, said the "disgusting" death had left her parents "shattered".

The Roman Catholic residents of Lurgan were in mourning yesterday for the loss of Mrs Nelson, who had championed their rights. Hundreds of people poured into her red-brick house to pay their respects to her husband, Paul, and children, Gavin, 13, Christopher, 11, and Sarah, 8. The boys had returned early from a school skiing trip and went directly to the morgue so that they could accompany their mother's body home.

Mrs Nelson will be buried in Lurgan tomorrow morning after Mass in St Peter's Church. Father Kieran McParlan, her parish priest, said she was a fine friend to everyone. "Why would anyone want to take away the life of a lady who did



Rosemary Nelson: funeral will be held tomorrow

so much good for her family and community?" he asked.

It was a question being repeated on the nationalist Kilwilkie estate as people huddled in small groups trying to cope with the brutality of the car-bomb murder. The run-down estate, littered with IRA graffiti, is less than five minutes from Mrs Nelson's house.

It is home to many of her former clients, including Colin Duffy. She successfully appealed his conviction for the 1993 murder of a UDR soldier and forced police to drop charges against him for the murder of two officers on patrol in Lurgan in 1997. The latter case particularly angered loyalists.

Asked whether he felt responsible for her death, Mr Duffy said: "Many's the time I have spoken to her about the obvious danger she was putting

herself in by taking on high-profile cases. She was not prepared to back off and I did not get any sense of fear from her. She knew there were risks but I suppose, like any human being, she felt that it was not going to come to her door."

Mr Duffy said that no other solicitor would be brave enough to take on republican clients. He, like most republicans, alleges that the security forces colluded in her murder. He said the RUC hated her and attempted to undermine his opinion of her in interrogation.

He also said that police referred repeatedly to her face, scarred since childhood: "They would go on about her being ugly and how could anyone deal with having to look at her."

Sinn Féin has sought to control the anger on the estate since the death by saying that young men should stay indoors at night. Some were, however, preparing petrol bombs yesterday to throw at police patrols. One republican said trouble would start after the funeral.

A silent protest, organised by Sinn Féin, was held last night by residents, who walked from the Kilwilkie estate to Mrs Nelson's office in the town centre. Bouquets lined the door, carrying messages such as "A beautiful woman with a beautiful vision". One mourner left a small tub of shamrock, marking St Patrick's Day, which the rest of Ireland will celebrate today.

Martin Fletcher, page 20

Paras can keep their surnames secret

By MICHAEL EVANS

AN ORDER for five soldiers to be identified for a new inquiry in the Bloody Sunday shootings was overruled in the High Court yesterday.

The paratroopers had been ordered to give their surnames when appearing before the inquiry panel investigating the 1972 killing of 13 civilians in Londonderry. Yesterday Vice-President Lord Justice Kennedy, sitting with Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Blfield, said the decision was flawed because there was a misunderstanding about the nature of anonymity granted to the soldiers by the original Widgery inquiry in 1972, nor did it take into account an assessment of the threat they faced.

The decision not to grant absolute anonymity was "unlawful and invalid", Lord Justice Kennedy said. It was said up to the inquiry to decide on the basis of the arguments whether the soldiers should have anonymity.

Claims of RUC threats could end in sackings

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

RUC officers could face criminal charges over allegations that they threatened and harassed Rosemary Nelson.

Ronnie Flanagan, Chief Constable of the RUC, said yesterday that he had sent a Scotland Yard file on the claims to Alasdair Fraser, the Northern Ireland Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Independent Commission for Police Complaints for Northern Ireland, which has overseen the investigations, has also received a report from Scotland Yard and will make a statement later this week. If there are no criminal charges it could consider disciplinary action.

Mrs Nelson had made several public complaints about her treatment by the RUC. She claimed there had been repeated RUC death threats, an RUC officer had spat in her face and another had hit her over the back of the head with a riot shield.

The RUC began investigating the claims in 1997. Last

April she reported that problems were continuing. She said a detective at Castlereagh detention centre had made derogatory remarks about her to one of her clients, and she gave evidence to a United Nations group looking at allegations of intimidation of lawyers by RUC officers.

Last July the complaints commission went to Mr Flanagan and to Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to put forward "serious concerns" about the RUC handling of the case, but refused to give details publicly.

The commission added that it had a statutory and ethical obligation to ensure that all complaints were thoroughly and satisfactorily investigated. When Mr Flanagan proposed to hand the inquiry over to Commander Neil Mulvihill, head of the Yard's organised crime group, the authority insisted on meeting and vetting him.

Mr Mulvihill began work last summer with a small team of officers. The operation was so sensitive that few senior officers in his department knew what he was doing. The report was completed very recently apart from one or two administrative additions which are thought to concern recommendations to the RUC for the future.

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INSIDE SECTION 2

Inner cities look East.

New housing for ethnic communities

Homes - pages 38-40



مكتبة الأمل

Number's up for calculator in maths drive

MATHEMATICS should no longer be the preserve of swots, Tony Blair said yesterday as he launched a teaching strategy requiring more use of the brain and less of calculators in primary schools.

The Prime Minister told an audience of teachers and business leaders in London: "For too long maths has been seen by too many people as unfashionable, a subject for swots. We must forge a new status for maths within society as a whole. This means destroying the myth that it's clever to be hopeless at maths."

Carol Vorderman, the television presenter who is supporting the Government's Maths Year 2000 campaign, said: "People who like maths are seen as freaks. Well if so then I'm head girl of the freak school."

The mathematics drive, which involves a daily numeracy hour at all primary schools as part of the £55 million National Numeracy Strategy, follows this year's National Year of Reading and the Government's daily literacy hour.

Yesterday's launch saw the publication of detailed advice for teachers. They were issued with a weighty framework document laying out the teaching of mathematics from reception class to the final year of primary school. The document gives sample questions that indicate the level of attainment required for each age group. Use of calculators is discouraged.

The Government's aim is for 75 per cent of all 11 year

New initiative will encourage primary school children to learn basics, reports Hannah Betts

olds to be reaching the mathematics standards expected for their age by 2002. Four out of ten 11 year olds failed to reach the target last year.

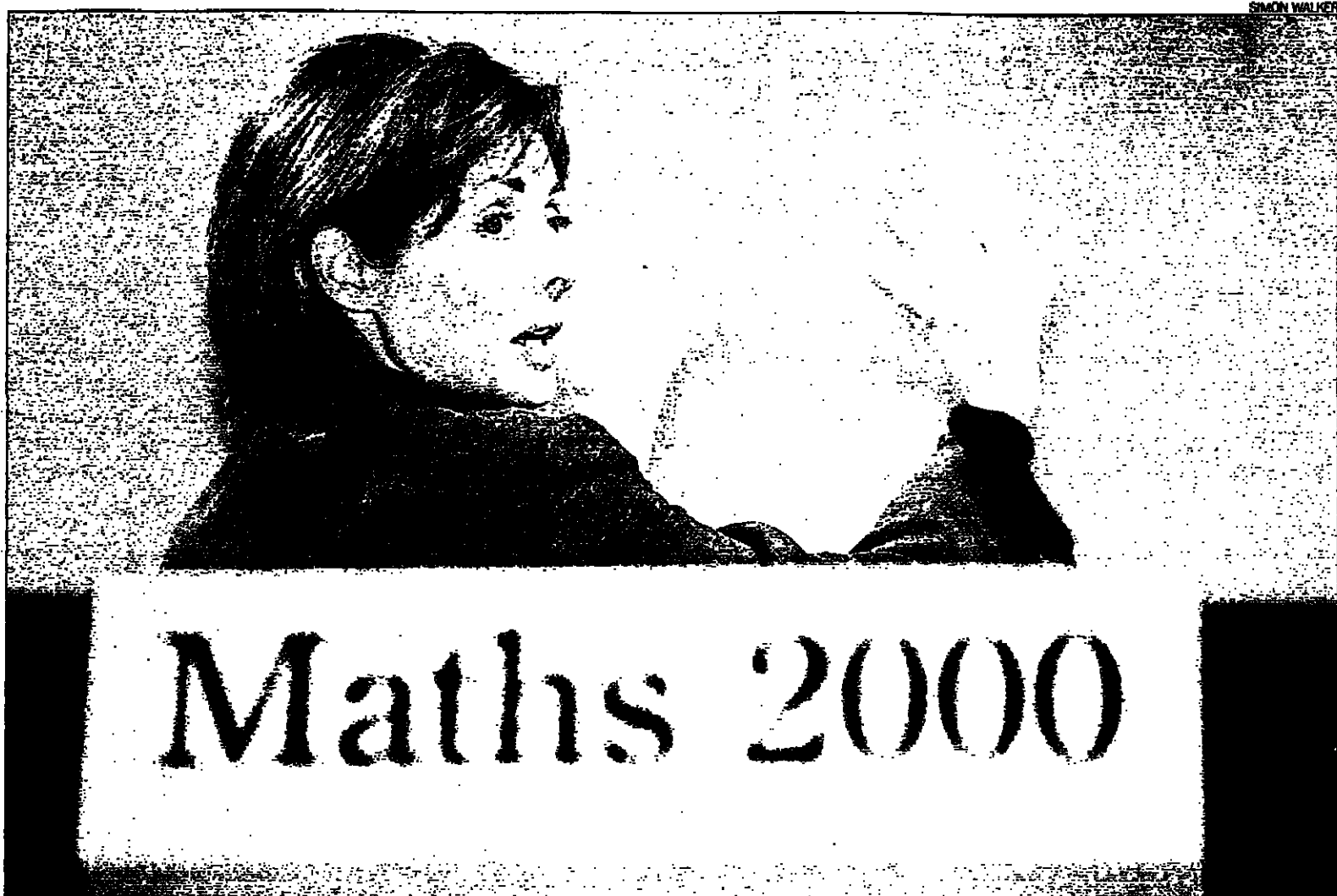
The Government will involve adults to achieve a sea change in the way society feels about mathematics. Three thousand parents will join their children on 500 family numeracy courses and will be encouraged to brush up their times tables.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, was the first adult volunteer, arriving fresh from a mathematics test on Radio 4's *Today* programme. He took 14 seconds to answer twelve times nine correctly, but at least managed to avoid the gaffe of his former deputy, Stephen Byers, who suggested that eight times seven was 54 at a mathematics promotion last year.

Teachers' unions reacted cautiously to the numeracy drive. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of School Masters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "Many teachers will

appreciate the rich irony in the Government's employing Carol Vorderman to launch Maths Year 2000. She earns more for one day's TV work than many teachers earn in a whole year and unlike Carol, teachers can't have their mistakes edited out."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that while the National Numeracy Strategy would not be as controversial as the Literacy Strategy, some concerns would remain. "It is tied too closely to the Government's artificial national targets, and its introduction, along with the Literacy Strategy, threatens to marginalise the rest of the National Curriculum. The NAHT has no objection to Maths Year 2000 but quite frankly every year is a maths year in all schools."



Doing it by fingers: Carol Vorderman helping to launch Maths 2000 yesterday. She said she was head girl of the freak school of those who liked maths

Actress wins by recounting her lines

By SUSIE STEINER

A SOAP star trounced politicians and a professor yesterday in three multiplication teasers set by *The Times*. Barbara Windsor, of *EastEnders* and the *Carry On* films, gave the fastest answers and said: "Well, you don't want to look like a berk, do you?"

We asked three questions that have teased government ministers: seven times eight (56), which famously tripped up Stephen Byers when he was Schools Minister; nine times eight (72), asked of David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, a year ago; and 12 times nine, (108), which took Mr Blunkett 14 seconds on the *Today* programme yesterday.

Heinz Wolff, celebrity inventor and Emeritus Professor of Bioengineering at Brunel University, answered the first two questions in two seconds each, and the third in three seconds. He said: "I like playing with numbers. If I'm at a wedding and on the board is hymn number 192, then I think. That's twice 96! Ms Windsor answered the three questions

accurately in under two seconds each.

"It's my era," she explained. "I'm 61 and we had to learn our tables by heart. I don't have any problem with maths. I've got a ridiculous memory and I did enjoy maths. My mother would be really really proud."

David Willets, the Shadow Education Secretary who is known as "Two Brain Willets" among some parliamentarians, answered the first question in four seconds, the second in three seconds and the third in four seconds.

He said: "We used to recite them by rote. My worry about what the Government is doing is simply that their strategy is indiscriminate and compulsory."

Peter Stringfellow, 58, the nightclub owner, took 20 seconds on the first question, eight seconds on the next and 15 seconds on the last with a couple of incorrect attempts. He said: "I never learnt my times tables because I was ill for that period at school."

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SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Six-year-olds

1. What is one more than 6? Then 9? Then 19? Then 24?
What is one less than 8? Then 20? Then 25?
(Answers) 7, 10, 20, 23, 19, 17, 24, 21, 25, 22, 20, 25, 22

2. Fill in the missing numbers on this number track:
2 3 4 6 8 9 10 12 13 15

3. How many different ways can you score 4 by rolling two dice?
What about 6?

Nine-year-olds

1. What are the next three numbers in each sequence?
a. 38, 47, 56, 65 b. 48, 41, 34, 27
c. 135, 137, 139, 141 d. 288, 285, 282
e. 74, 83, 92 f. 20, 13, 6 g. 143, 142, 141, 140 h. 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24
i. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 j. 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36

2. Fill in the missing numbers in this sequence:
45, 49, 57, 61

3. Take a 6 x 6 number grid.
Count on in 4s from 0.
Shade the numbers you land on.
What do you notice?

Eleven-year-olds

1. Find two consecutive numbers with a product of 1332.
Two numbers with a product of 899

2. Here is a number sequence using counters:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

How many counters on the 6th number? the 20th?
Write a formula for the number of counters in the nth number in the sequence.

3. Each letter from A to G is a code for one of these digits:
1 3 4 5 6 8 9. Crack the code.
A + A = B, A + A = D, A + C = DE, C + C = DB, C + C = BD, A + C = EF
A + A = B, A + A = D, A + C = DE, C + C = DB, C + C = BD, A + C = EF
S = 0, 9 = 1, 7 = 2, 0 = 3, 6 = 4, 8 = 5, 4 = 6, 5 = 7, 1 = 8, 9 = 9

IOC members 'out to get' Samaranch

THE Olympics chief, Juan Antonio Samaranch, has admitted to close associates that there is a campaign among leading members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to force his resignation over the cash-for-votes corruption scandal.

On the eve of what promises to be the most turbulent day in the Olympic movement since Ben Johnson was found positive for drugs at the 1988 Olympics, 91 IOC members were gathered for a meeting in Lausanne.

A vote is due today on whether Señor Samaranch should remain as president and whether to expel the six members who received favours from Salt Lake City in its successful bid to stage the 2002 Winter Games.

Four members of the committee have already resigned.

Sources said yesterday that Señor Samaranch, who has held his post since 1980 but has refused responsibility for the biggest crisis in the organisation's 106-year history, is considering several options. One is that he should stay on until his planned retirement in 2001. Another is to retire after the Sydney Olympics in September 2000. A third is to give up when the IOC meets in Seoul, South Korea, in June. The fourth, which is consid-

**Olympic leaders
are braced for
turmoil, writes
John Goodbody
in Lausanne**

ered the least likely, is to resign immediately.

Several leading members of the international community and some sponsors believe that Señor Samaranch should take personal responsibility and resign. Such an action, they believe, would show the world that a new era in the Olympics is beginning.

However, several of his possible successors fear that if they try to persuade Señor Samaranch to resign within the next few months, they risk losing the support of other members.

Kevin Gosper, an Australian member of the executive, said yesterday that no decision had yet been taken on how the vote on Señor Samaranch's future would be taken. It may be by secret ballot or by show of hands. Señor Samaranch's supporters would prefer that because members would be more reluctant publicly to op-

pose him. Each of the six members facing expulsion will today be allowed 20 minutes to defend himself before his fellow members.

A two-thirds majority is required for expulsion. The six are: Seutil Paul Wallwork of Samoa; Lamine Keita of Mali; Agustín Arroyo of Ecuador; Zein el-Abdin Ahmed Abdel Gadir of Sudan; Sergio Santander Fantini of Chile; and Jean-Claude Ganga of Congo.

Mr Ganga yesterday launched a bitter criticism of the move to expel him, accusing the six-man investigating panel and the executive board of seeking revenge for the occasion in 1976 when he led the black African boycott of the Montreal Olympics.

Mr Ganga said that there was an attempt to "stop Africa having an influence in the IOC. They are trying to stop us being at the centre of decision-making in world sport."

□ Sydney: Phil Coles, an Australian member of the IOC, denied accusations of free-loading and gift-taking that threaten his career. Amid growing moves to drop him from the Sydney committee preparing for the 2000 Games, he said allegations that he took £24,600 in travel and accommodation from Salt Lake City were a myth. (AFP)



Troops of the 1st Battalion King's Own Royal Border Regiment patrolling Skopje airport yesterday as part of the Nato force in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia poised to rescue peace monitors in Kosovo if necessary

SERBIAN officials told mediators at the Kosovo peace talks yesterday that Belgrade would rather fight Nato than sign up to an autonomy deal for the province which they said had been finalised behind their backs (Tom Walk-

Serbs 'would rather fight'

er writes). But sources close to the mediators said the posturing belied a nervousness among the Serbs, whom one diplomat said had been "bad-

ly rattled" by the sudden Albanian agreement to the Contact Group's three-year transition blueprint. Wolfgang Petritsch, the EU mediator, told

the Serbs that Nato bombing was "days, not weeks, away". □ Sarajevo: Jozo Lencar, the Croat Deputy Interior Minister of Bosnia's Muslim-Croat federation, was critically ill yesterday after a car bomb attack here. (Reuters)

Jordan to purchase British tanks

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

THE Royal Jordanian Army is to buy a "substantial number of British Challenger tanks, it was announced yesterday.

Britain's main battle tanks, which were deployed in the Gulf War, are now being replaced by a more advanced Challenger 2, which first came into service in June last year. Although the British and Jordanian governments are still discussing the matter, the sale could involve hundreds of tanks.

The British Army has about 400 Challenger 1s, all of which will be surplus once the full order for Challenger 2s has been completed.

Paul Beaver of Jane's Defence Weekly said the Challenger 1s would replace the Jordanian Tariq tank, which is based on the Centurion, and would supplement the Khalid tank, which he said has "high levels of commonality with the Challenger". Mr Beaver said he understood that concerns over classified systems, including the Chobham armour fitted to Challengers, had been resolved.

Lord Gilbert, the Defence Procurement Minister, said during a visit to Amman yesterday that the exact number of tanks to be sold and the delivery dates had yet to be agreed.

The deal is the first arms agreement between Britain and Jordan since King Hussein died. Although the Challengers are relatively old, they will significantly strengthen Jordan's defence forces.

□ Taba: King Abdullah of Jordan, making his first official visit to an Arab country since coming to the throne, held talks in Taba with President Mubarak of Egypt.

The two leaders attended the inauguration of a link between their countries' electricity supply systems through a submarine cable between Taba and Jordan's southern city of Aqaba — the first step on the way to a broader Arab electricity grid. "This is the first practical step to link economic ties after King Hussein's death," an Egyptian official said. (Reuters)

LAST OUTPOSTS OF AN EMPIRE



Cook opens door to 150,000 new citizens

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AFTER a long delay, Robin Cook is to tell Parliament today that Britain is to restore full British citizenship to all 150,000 inhabitants of its 13 dependent territories as soon as possible. A Bill will be introduced in the next Parliament and those involved are expected to be given full British passports within a year.

Labour sees the Foreign Secretary's move as an overdue rectification of the hardship caused by the Conservative Government's 1981 Immigration Act,

which deprived all those living in Britain's remaining colonies of an automatic right to British citizenship. The result was to bar them from working or settling in Britain, to restrict their travel and confine them to tiny islands plagued by high unemployment.

About 150,000 people in all will be eligible for new passports: inhabitants of Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands are already full citizens. The change will allow everyone living in the dependencies scattered between Bermuda and the Pitcairn Islands to travel to the European Union without visas. It will also give them full Westminster voting

rights if they move to Britain, though not in their own islands.

The Bill was supposed to be ready six months ago; however, it ran into the bureaucracy of the Home Office, which insisted on making a thorough investigation. Home Office officials were afraid of setting unwelcome immigration precedents.

The Government does not expect any mass immigration to Britain, especially as living standards in Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands are higher than in Britain. These territories account for almost half the population of those eligible for

new passports. Labour made clear at a summit of all the former colonies last year that it regarded the present situation as unjust. The 1981 Act was passed to stop the six million inhabitants of Hong Kong moving to Britain before the handover to China. It hurt the remote and poorer territories, especially St Helena, one of the most isolated, which has high unemployment and depends on a yearly £3.2 million subsidy from Britain.

For three territories, citizenship is irrelevant: British Antarctic Territory, South Georgia and British Indian Ocean Territory are uninhabited.

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Congo rebels kill Mugabe troops

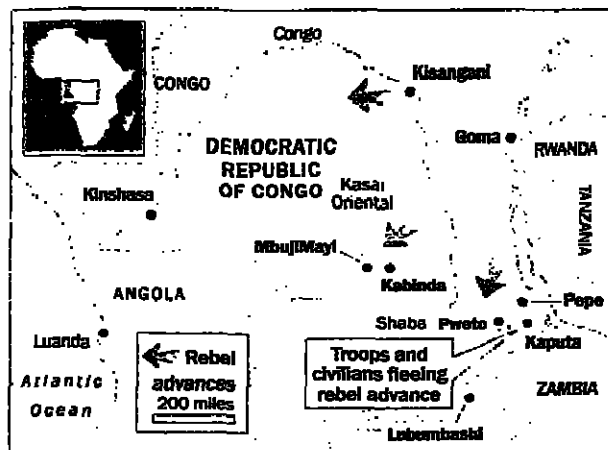
FROM ROBIN LODGE
IN NAIROBI

UP TO 150 Zimbabwean soldiers are reported to have been killed in battles with rebel forces in the southeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo, while thousands of refugees have been streaming across the border with Zambia to escape the fighting.

A military expert on the region, citing rebel sources, said yesterday that at least 80 Zimbabweans had been killed in the clashes — identified by documents found on the bodies — but that there could be more bodies hidden in the bush.

A rebel commander said that 150 had been killed, including a battalion commander, while four armoured vehicles and several military lorries had been captured. He said four Zimbabweans had been taken prisoner.

The fighting comes after a Zimbabwean-led attack on rebel forces last week aimed at halting a rebel advance on the diamond town of MbujiMayi.



The Zimbabwean media reported that more than 230 Ugandan soldiers had been killed in fighting with forces supporting President Kabila near MbujiMayi, 50 miles west of Kabinda.

The reports, which have not had independent confirmation, also said the losses had included a battalion commander. The latest claims have also proved impossible to verify,

with no independent observers to witness the fighting, which the rebels said took place over the past few days

LINKS
<http://www.drcngo.org/francon/index.html> — Congo website
<http://www.southafrica.com/NGM.html> — New Congo Net
<http://www.southafrica.com/> — Southern African Development Committee

near the towns of Peta, Pweto and Kabinda in Shaba province. Last week, a rebel spokesman said their forces had killed 300 troops loyal to President Kabila.

The Times of Zambia reported on Monday that at least 10,000 civilians, including a number of French settlers, had crossed the border. Yesterday a spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said people were passing through one crossing point at Kalanda at a rate of 900 an hour. Those fleeing were also said to include 800 Congo Government soldiers.

Harare: A Zimbabwe defence headquarters spokesman, Colonel Chancellor Diye, dismissed last night as propaganda claims of the first serious reverse since President Mugabe sent 8,000 troops to the Democratic Republic of Congo last August (Michael Hartnack writes). "That is a lie," the colonel responded when asked about reports from both Nairobi and Kigali of a pitched battle on Monday.



President Clinton and his wife host a millennium event yesterday at the White House dedicated to "Women as Citizens". In a New York poll, 10 per cent of voters wanted to know "why Hillary still stays with the President"

Mayor dashes Hillary's Senate hopes

HILLARY CLINTON may be having second thoughts about trying for elected office after the latest opinion poll indicated that she would be easily defeated by Rudolph Giuliani, the New York Mayor, in a possible race for the US Senate.

The survey, by Zogby International pollsters, put Mr Giuliani "comfortably" ahead of Mrs Clinton with 48.4 per cent to 36.9 per cent of the vote, indicating that winning the New York Senate seat would be an uphill struggle that could easily end in humiliation for the President's wife.

"There was a kind of honeymoon after she announced she was thinking of running, but now it is clear what a major battle she would face if she runs against Giuliani. The honeymoon is clearly over," John Zogby said.

Democratic voters in New York still favour Mrs Clinton as a Senate candidate, but New Yorkers in general hold a more favourable view of their Republican Mayor. The poll indicated that voters were particularly uncertain why Mrs Clinton would want to run for the seat and what she intends to do for New York State should she win it. The scandals of recent months and the state of the Clintons' marriage have also had an effect on her possible candidature because nearly 10 per cent of voters "wanted to know why she still stays with the President".

Neither Mrs Clinton nor Mr Giuliani have formally announced they will run for the Senate seat to be vacated by Daniel Patrick Moynihan, but in the aftermath of her husband's impeachment trial Mrs Clinton made clear that she was considering a bid, prompting a frenzy of excitement in Democratic circles and some sharply critical remarks from Mr Giuliani.

Mrs Clinton's backers insisted that she would be impossible to beat if she decided to run in the race and an initial poll by Time/CNN indicated that she was supported by 52 per cent to Mr Giuliani's 43 per cent. But as sympathy for her ordeal as a wronged wife has faded, so has her popularity.

The Senate job is only one of several options being considered by Mrs Clinton after her husband leaves office, ranging from founding a public policy unit to serving in the Cabinet of a possible future Democratic Administration. Mrs Clinton is also weighing whether to head a charity foundation or take up an academic post.

"Most of the universities in the country would give anything to have her come and

Poll shows New Yorkers favour Giuliani, reports Ben Macintyre in Washington

teach." Donna Shalala, the Health and Human Services Secretary and a friend of Mrs Clinton, said.

Financial considerations may play a part in her final decision because the Clintons have little in the way of savings, no home of their own and vast legal bills, although a defence fund is working to raise cash to pay the bills. As a writer and lecturer she could earn millions of dollars in the aftermath of the Clinton presidency, but as a senator Mrs Clinton would be barred from sitting on corporate boards or delivering paid speeches.

Mr Clinton has observed that his wife would make a "terrific" senator, but with one eye, perhaps, on the family's bank statement, he has also remarked that she could earn "\$20 million" (£12 million) after he leaves office.

As a senator Mrs Clinton would earn \$136,000 a year, but it has been estimated that she would earn about \$50,000 a lecture, and at least \$5 million alone from a tell-all book about her time in the White House.

"The more she reveals, the more valuable the project would be," Judith Regan, a New York literary agent, said. **Hat in the ring:** Steve Forbes, the publisher, promising a "new information age campaign", yesterday became the first person to announce his presidential candidature on the Internet. (Reuters)



Giuliani: "comfortably" ahead of Mrs Clinton

Clinton offers new debt plan for Africa

Washington: President Clinton called on countries yesterday to pursue a broad approach to debt relief and write off \$70 billion (£43 billion), mostly in Africa.


Calling for a partnership with Africa, Mr Clinton announced the initiative in a speech to the opening session of a US-Africa ministerial meeting at the State Department. His proposal extended

the US commitment to providing more relief to a broader range of heavily indebted poor countries more quickly and with strong reform programmes. "What I am proposing is debt reduction that is deeper and faster," he told ministers from 46 African countries.


He proposed "complete forgiveness" of bilateral concessional loans. (Reuters)

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Firefighters survey the wreck after a train bound for New Orleans hit a lorry on a level crossing

At least 13 die as US train hits lorry

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

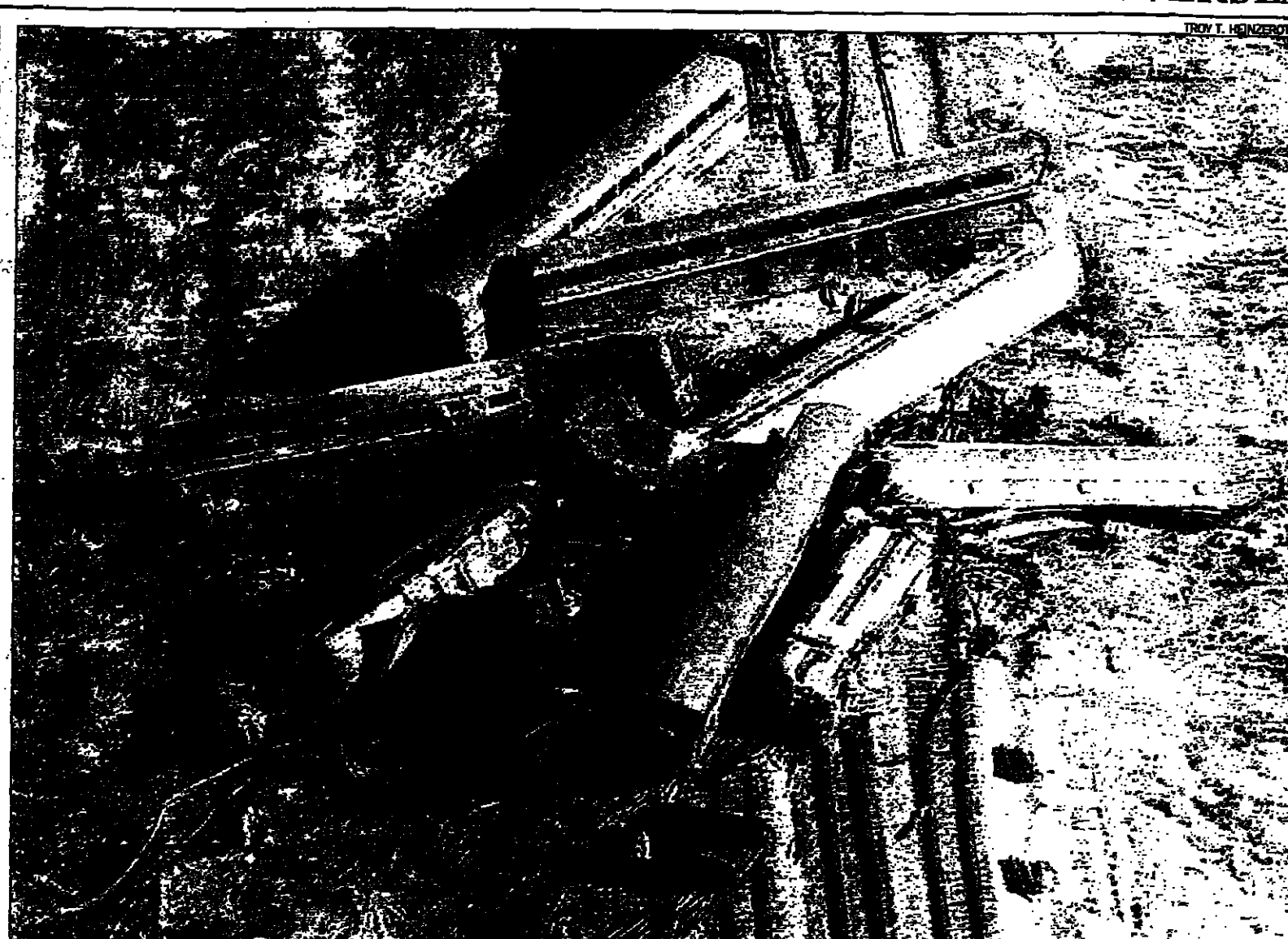
AT least 13 people were killed, with others missing, and more than 100 were injured yesterday after a passenger train ploughed into a lorry at a level crossing at Bourbonnais, south of Chicago.

Rescuers spent yesterday sifting through the wreckage of the Amtrak train looking for survivors. There had been 217 people on board, including the crew, when the overnight train

from Chicago to New Orleans hit the lorry on a crossing on Monday night.

The driver of the lorry, which was carrying steel from a local plant, was believed to have survived. Most of the train was derailed and fires broke out in several carriages. Some of those taken to hospital were in a critical condition.

As rescuers searched the train the word "empty" was



The scene of devastation after the rail crash at Bourbonnais, Illinois, south of Chicago, yesterday. Two engines and 11 carriages left the tracks

sprayed on carriages when it was clear that there were no survivors inside. But more than ten people were unaccounted for and firemen expressed little hope of finding anyone else alive. Their search was concentrated on a twisted sleeper carriage which was expected to contain more bodies.

Lee Bullock, president of Amtrak Inter City, told reporters that the cause of the acci-

dent was not known. The crossing was protected by gates. The investigation is expected to centre on whether the gates and lights, which were flashing after the accident, were

working before the collision. The train consisted of two engines and 14 carriages. Both engines and all but the last three carriages left the tracks. One of the engines split in two.

The gravest accident in Amtrak history happened in 1993 when 47 people were killed near Mobile, Alabama, when a tug hit a bridge and caused it to collapse as a train was passing over it. In another serious accident, 11 people were killed and 26 injured in February 1996 when an Amtrak train smashed head-on into a commuter train in Silver Spring, just outside Washington.



WORLD SUMMARY

Pilgrims defy UN air ban

Riyadh: An Iraqi plane carrying 110 Muslim pilgrims ignored a UN embargo and the Western-imposed no-fly zone and landed in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The Iraqi Airways head said Iraq was planning three flights to the haj pilgrimage this year. (Reuters)

Anwar's plea

Kuala Lumpur: Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's sacked Finance Minister, asked the judge in his corruption trial to step down, saying he has not had a fair hearing. (Reuters)

Cuban jailings

Havana: Cuba risked international human rights wrath by jailing four dissidents — one for five years — for stirring up unrest against the Government of Fidel Castro. (AP)

Soft landing

Moscow: Ludmila Mulin drove off a garage's ninth floor as her ex-husband, Gleb, taught her to drive. Both were hurt as the car went through a glass wall to land in trees. (AP)

Ex-mayor held

New York: Former Mayor David Dinkins and two congressmen were among 14 people arrested as they protested at last month's fatal police shooting of an unarmed immigrant. (AP)

Diplomat hurt

Budapest: Mick Leake, a second secretary at the British Embassy here, is in hospital after being seriously injured in a car accident 60 miles from the Hungarian capital. (AP)

Top table dish

Tehran: Iran may end its four-year ban on satellite dishes, but only for "elites" such as artists, professors, journalists and public officials. (AFP)

Paula Jones and husband announce separation

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

IN PUBLIC they have put on a show of commitment to each other, but in private their marriage was plagued by rows and proved unable to survive the accusation that the President of the United States was guilty of sexual harassment. Paula Jones — the woman whose legal action against Bill Clinton triggered the Monica Lewinsky scandal — has separated from her husband.

Mrs Jones has said that she and her husband, Steve, had no immediate plans to divorce but she is moving back to live near her mother in Arkansas while he remains at their condominium in Long Beach, California. She said that they were "not going to get ugly with each other" and were no different from many other couples who live apart because of different career ambitions and interests.

"I wanted to get back closer to my family and friends," Mrs Jones told

USA Today. "In California, I had to be very careful about who I got to know, so I didn't develop any close friendships."

The newspaper said the couple had been discussing a separation for some time after disagreements over the strategy in the sexual harassment case and how to spend the money from the out-of-court settlement with Mr Clinton.

Mrs Jones claimed that in 1991, when she was engaged to Steve and Mr Clinton was Governor of Arkan-

sas, she visited him in a hotel room where he asked her to perform oral sex. The affair with Ms Lewinsky emerged when the former White House trainee was asked to submit an affidavit in Mrs Jones's harassment case.

James Carville, Mr Clinton's former adviser, suggested that Mrs Jones was "trailer park" trash, but in November Mr Clinton eventually settled with an \$850,000 (£524,690) payment that was not accompanied by an apology or admittance of wrong-

doing. After paying her lawyers, Mrs Jones was left with \$201,000. She plans to take a job as a manicurist and is considering offers from the media.

Mr Jones has been unemployed since being dismissed last year as a Northwest Airlines clerk. He is contesting that dismissal and plans to write a book and pursue an acting career. Their sons, six and two, will live with Mrs Jones, who has bought a ranch house in Cabot, Arkansas, near her mother's home.



Jones moved back to live near her mother

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The thrill of knowing

Where is Mombasa? In European Brain Week John McCrone explains how the brain surprises us into knowing the answer

When we get a joke or a riddle, there is a definite feeling that comes with the moment. A friend might try out a brain-teaser on us, saying that this person went up to bed, turned off the light and slid under the covers. The problem was that the light switch was right across the room, yet he still managed to make it into bed before the room went dark. So how did he do it?

The answer, if you have not guessed, is that it was daylight when he went to bed. But the point is that when we have pondered something for a second and then get the solution, we feel a sudden clap of insight. We do not just see the silly logic of the solution, saying to ourselves in dry computer fashion, "well, yes, that adds up". We feel an emotional jolt, an "aha!" of surprise or pleasure.

We feel an emotional jolt, an 'aha!' of surprise or pleasure

And a similar sharp stab of emotion occurs in many situations, such as when we find a set of door keys we have been looking for, when we suddenly remember yesterday was our mother's birthday, or when a dog dashes out into the road in front of our car. There is a shock that seems to grab our attention and tell us something significant has happened.

Aha! feelings come in many different flavours and vary in strength. Some lead to a feeling of elation and delight, as when we hear a funny joke or discover we have won a lottery prize; others can lead to a sinking feeling or even distress, as when we note heavy footsteps coming up behind us on a dark night, or spot a hairy spider on our shirt sleeve.

The scale of an aha! can also range from the mildest buzz of interest or familiarity right up to heart-pumping alarm. This variety is confusing, but a big clue about the origins of all such feelings is that they ap-

pear tied to the escalation of an event into consciousness. Virtually by definition, the feeling of significance, certainty, recognition, surprise, or alarm are connected to whatever it is that has just caught our attention rather than some background event of which we will not take any further notice.

The feeling seems bound in with an assessment process that leads us eventually to focus on one sensation or thought out of the many that may be swirling on the edges of our minds.

To see how vital a part the aha! feeling plays in our mental lives, just try to imagine consciousness without this constant feeling of judgment. It tells us what is important. It even tells us what is familiar and what is novel, or right or wrong. If asked whether Mombasa was in Africa or South Africa, we might find either answer equally plausible unless we had a positive flicker of recognition to tip in the right direction.

And the way we know that we don't know an answer is when there is no click of familiarity for either alternative — such as, perhaps, if we were asked whether Mombasa was in Uganda or Kenya, or whether its population was half a million or three million. There is a whole cascade of motor and metabolic adjustments that take place whenever we are struck by a surprising or novel event.

The first thing that happens is almost too obvious to mention: we immediately stop whatever it is that we are doing and glance to bring the event into focus. Yet it is worth noting the implications. The decision to halt and inspect must be made before the event itself has entered full consciousness.

The perhaps tricky disengagement from whatever it was that we had been about to do, and the reorientation of



Rapid change: there is a whole cascade of motor and metabolic adjustments whenever we are struck by a surprising event

our senses to a new location, must be organised at a reflexive, pre-conscious, level.

This orientation response is a complete, whole body reaction. When we hear a knock at the door or feel an unexpected

touch on our shoulder, not only do we automatically stop and turn, we also begin to sweat a little, our mouths go dry, our heart rate and blood pressure increase, extra sugar is released into our circula-

tion, our blood vessels dilate to raise the supply to the muscles and brain, our breathing deepens, and our air passages widen to bring in more oxygen. Our brains go through a process of arousal as well. There is a rapid change in neurotransmitter levels to make us more alert. The orientation response makes sure that we hit the ground running, both physically and mentally.

The link between orientation response and the aha! feeling is easy enough to see. As part of orientating to a significant event, or even a significant idea or thought, we experience a rich variety of physical changes.

Our heart may lurch, our stomach heave, our face blanch. There is nothing extraordinary about such reactions; they

can be measured with voltmeters or blood-pressure gauges. And we will experience them just as directly. So the feeling of knowing that we know — of familiarity and recognition — is a muted version of this orientation reaction. When we ask ourselves if Mombasa is in Kenya, the reason we trust the answer is because of a confirming twinge. It is the only pairing that triggers a slight halting — a catch in our attention — and a just-measurable quickening of the pulse. A pairing with Uganda should draw a metabolic blank — the empty feeling we call unfamiliarity.

Extracted from *Going Inside* by John McCrone published by Faber (RRP £20). Times readers can order this title only for £17 by calling the Times Bookshop on 090 329 454.

Clash over Big Bang

PARTICLE physicists spend a lot of taxpayers' money, so they need to prove that the public is getting value for it. But a claim issued recently by Fermilab, the US particle physics laboratory at Batavia, Illinois, has provoked cries of "foul" from Europe's equivalent, the CERN laboratory in Geneva. While the physicists are usually prepared to make common cause in the interests of extracting taxpayers' cash, there are rules to be observed. Among these is not claiming as theirs — at least not too obviously — what somebody else has already discovered.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

The row centres on an arcane but vital aspect of how nature behaves. At the Big Bang, equal amounts of matter and antimatter were created, but the Universe as we live in it today consists exclusively of matter. Andrei Sakharov suggested that a subtle difference between particles and antiparticles led, soon after the Big Bang, to a slight excess of particles from which the whole visible Universe has since evolved.

This difference is measurable as a property called charge-parity violation — which amounts to saying that particles and antiparticles do not behave as each other's exact opposites. Providing conclusive evidence of CP violation is therefore important.

Indirect evidence of CP violation in particles called K-mesons (or kaons) was discovered in 1964 by James Cronin and Val Fitch at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Long Island. They won a Nobel prize for their work. Ever

since, physicists have been looking for direct evidence as this would help them to distinguish between rival theories of matter.

Earlier this month Fermilab issued a press release announcing that this long-sought evidence was finally at hand.

There was "an audible gasp", it was said, when the result was announced by Peter Shawhan of the University of Chicago to a seminar on February 24.

What provoked the gasp was Shawhan giving a measure of the degree of CP-violation by saying: "Our result is that epsilon prime over epsilon equals 28, plus or minus 4.1, times ten to the minus four."

Professor Fitch, now at Princeton, says: "It is a most astonishing result. It is quite unexpected and very interesting." It was at this moment that physicists at CERN felt that the unwritten rules had been breached. For an experiment there, first reported 11 years ago, had produced a similar value: 23, plus or minus 6.5, times ten to the minus four. CERN issued a statement offering congratulations for the Fermilab data "which confirm with greater precision the earlier result by the NA31 experiment at CERN".

As Konrad Kleinknecht of the University of Mainz told PhysicsWeb, it was "a brilliant confirmation of the earlier observations at CERN, and deserves credit for that". The irony is that Fermilab has long claimed a much smaller value and was now claiming originality by proving themselves wrong and somebody else right. Naughtily, naughtily.

An insect turn-off



GRASSHOPPERS like lettuce but cannot abide spinach. Like all insects, grasshoppers require a supply of sterols in their diets, which they convert into cholesterol, an essential part of cell membranes. But not all sterols are equal, and the ones in spinach are useless to the grasshopper.

But how does it know? Spencer Behmer and colleagues from the University of Arizona found out by experiment. They fed grasshoppers on spinach and found that it was nothing to do with taste. Naive grasshoppers tucked in enthusiastically, but when offered a second meal of it, they turned their noses up.

The team found, however, that if the grasshoppers were injected with lettuce sterols immediately after the first meal, they went on eating the spinach. But if they were injected with extra spinach sterols, their aversion to the vegetable increased. So it seems, they conclude in the *Journal of Experimental Biology*, that feedback from the stomach soon after a meal is what turns a grasshopper off spinach. Much like a lager lout and a bad curry.

El Niño's good turn

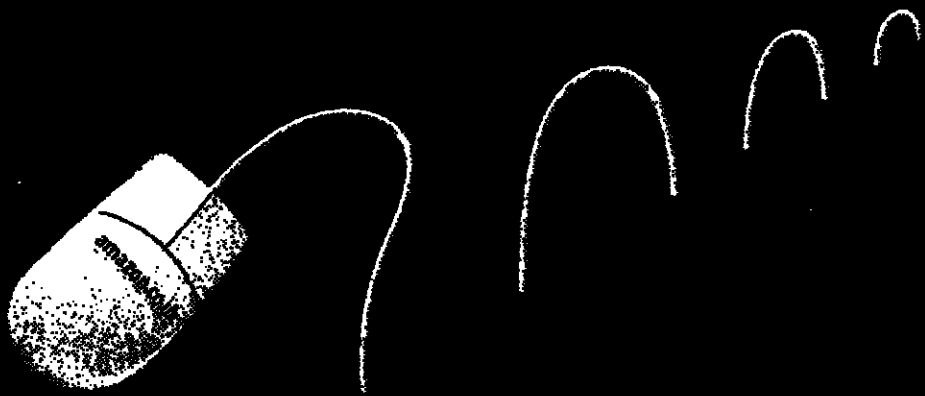


EL NIÑO, the climatic variation that begins with a warm current off the coast of Peru and turns into a blizzard of headlines about flood, drought and pestilence, has at last done a good turn. A threatened population of fish eagles at Lake Naivasha in Kenya has El Niño to thank for a fresh chance to flourish.

Dr David Harper and Munir Virani of Leicester University told the Earthwatch Convention Day in Oxford last Saturday that the fish eagles at the lake had been in decline. Over the past 15 years numbers had fallen by 50 per cent, and by 1996-97 they had stopped breeding.

This had been blamed on pesticides, but the Leicester scientists found that it was lack of food: the birds were getting barely enough to survive. Then along came El Niño and the heaviest rains in Kenyan history. The lake level rose by three metres, flooding huge areas and providing lots of food for fish and, indirectly, for fish eagles. They began to breed again. The bounty should last a couple of seasons, ensuring the birds' survival for up to ten years.

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THE TIMES

SCIENTISTS FOR THE NEW CENTURY

On Wednesday March 31, in *From Captain Hook to Robocop*, Dr Peter Kyberd, from Oxford Orthopaedic Engineering Centre, will discuss how close scientists have come to creating the perfect artificial hand. Are man-machine hybrids like Robocop near to reality, or are they destined to remain in the realms of fiction?

The talk will be introduced by Professor Susan Greenfield, the director of The Royal Institution. There will be the opportunity for questions from the audience.

The lecture will be held at 7.30pm at The Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4BS.

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"I believe we all have our allotted time in this world, and Terry had his. That's how I've come to terms with it," says his widow Diana

I'm not over it yet

Within the marble-effect walls of Diana Donovan's large, white Kensington villa is an air of smothering orderliness bordering on perfection. It is a fitting showcase for its owner: slim, tanned, with her hair in an elegant bob, and wearing a minimalist black suit. The scenario seems flawless, but deceptively so — her husband, the photographer Terence Donovan, took his own life in his studio in November 1996.

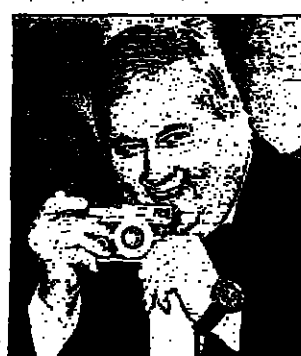
The sadness in Diana's blue eyes is all too evident as she talks about the man she was married to for 26 years. "I'm afraid I'm still not very good at talking about him," she says, sitting at the table where in times past they enjoyed so many family dinners. "I'm still devastated. I haven't got over it."

The reason she is forcing herself to recall the man she loved so dearly was yesterday's opening — by Lord Putnam, who first introduced Terence to Diana — of a retrospective exhibition, *The Eye That Never Sleeps*. It features 130 black-and-white prints, a reflection of Donovan's love for London over four decades, but is a fraction of a vast archive of work that Diana has

In her first interview since Terence Donovan's death, his widow Diana talks to Noreen Taylor

discovered since his death. She estimates that there are a million negatives in storage. "Going through Terry's work with his archive has been inspiring. Studying the photographs has brought back so many memories. He loved his work. Never wanted an exhibition, always said he was too busy working. Same as when people asked him about the Sixties. 'I'm busy with the Nineties,' he'd say. 'Let's talk about now.' He got such a thrill from work. Each job was a challenge. I remember driving past a Vodafone poster with him shouting 'Hey Dick, that's mine.'"

We are in her kitchen, looking out on the walled garden: rural bliss in Central London. Terence Donovan had everything, it seemed: everything that we are led to believe will bring personal fulfilment. For the son of an East End lorry driver who embraced judo and Buddhism, and rose to prominence in the Sixties, his achievements were impressive: riches, success, a devoted wife, family, friends. He was adored, says his wife, by all who knew him.



Inspiring: Terence Donovan

from the local dustmen to Diana, Princess of Wales. Yet none of it made his life worth living beyond the age of 60. Why? The question is as hard to form as it is for her to answer, though it is one that she must reflect on constantly. "I believe we all have our allotted time in this world and Terry had his. That's how I've come to terms with what has happened. Without my faith I don't know how I would have coped. Visiting my local church, sitting somewhere quiet, contemplating, helps the healing process. I don't talk

about Terry to anyone. We were private people who opened up only to each other." When they wed, in 1970, her friends gave the marriage a month. Indeed, Diana St Felix Dare, a convent-educated girl from a colonial Guyanese background, hardly seemed the ideal match for the self-made man still attached to his East End roots. I told Diana that when I interviewed her husband a decade ago he joked about loving the look on people's faces when he introduced them to her. "Very special lady, my wife. She's the backbone of my life, and not at all the sort you would imagine me with."

She laughs at the memory: "It's true. You wouldn't automatically have put us together. But from the start I was fascinated by his acute intelligence. The way he looked at things was unique. He made me laugh, feel safe. Class didn't come into it. He was a gentleman, thoughtful, the kind of man who would be surrounded by women seconds after entering a room. Women loved Terry, loved confiding in him."

Although she would disagree, it does seem that she made sacrifices for him. Donovan's work always came first, and his five-nights-a-week judo sessions were not negotiable either.

"I'd been working as a film publicist when we met, but I gave up work when we had our children. We gave each other room to breathe. I respect the commitment necessary for creative work. I accepted that I would be the one attending the parents' meetings."

"I had my interests. I was always doing some kind of course; whenever we discussed a subject I knew something about. Terry would laugh and say 'I suppose you've done a course on that, too.'"

Diana's children, Terry, 27, and Daisy, 24, remain close and have been a great support to Diana: "I don't know how I would have survived without them." Her emotional fragility seems close to the surface as she adds: "Everybody wanted a little piece of Terry. He seemed so accessible to people, made time for them. In that respect he was like Diana." Donovan was one of the Princess of Wales's favourite photographers, and she was a chief mourner at his memorial service. "For someone young enough to be my daughter, she seemed to understand a lot of what I was going through."

"We met through Well Being, one of the charities I worked for. Although I couldn't describe her as one of my closest friends, she was incredibly kind to me and the children after he died."

The giant-sized man has clearly left an enormous gap in her life, an abyss that she has tried to avoid by creating a daily structure that begins with a 6.45am run around Kensington Gardens, and continues with a schedule as packed as that of any corporate executive.

As well as acting as keeper of the Donovan photograph

collection — she is working on a book — there are other roles. She chairs the Arts Foundation and the English National Ballet School, finding time also to be a special projects consultant to N M Rothschild. She has had to give up, at least for the moment, the hospice work she began after nursing her mother: "You aren't allowed to work with the dying for two years after you've had a bereavement." She adds: "I don't plan any more. I have a vague picture of what might happen, but I'm just not strong on plans these days."

● *The Eye That Never Sleeps, sponsored by Denton Hall, is at the Museum of London until August 1.*

Escape from fire nine floors up

Thursday: We are sitting in our local Starbucks on Broadway at 102nd St, an Upper West Side hang-out filled with Columbia grad students nursing solitary cappuccinos, when a fire engine honks past. By the time I have finished my decaf latte another seven, accompanied by as many NYPD squad cars, have roared their way up towards the Columbia campus, scattering yellow cabs in their wake. A police helicopter is thrumming ominously above and so, like the Three Kings following the star, we take a detour home and track its position up Broadway until we find ourselves pressed up against NYPD crowd barriers at 107th St. In front of us is a scene that ignites a special fear in the heart of all Manhattan sky-dwellers. A beautiful, rose-bricked, 11-storey apartment building, known locally as the Wedding Cake for its ornate facade, is in flames.

"How did it start?" I ask a fellow gawper. He nods towards a restaurant awning at sidewalk level. "Café Fiesta Mexicana," he says. "I guess their jalapeño peppers got too hot."

As the ladders of the fire-tenders telescope tentatively towards the upper-floor windows, a 20ft fountain of flame spurts from the roof. There are hundreds of firefighters rushing in and out of the building now, and black smoke is churning out of the heat-cracked windows, undeterred by the geysers of water being sprayed. Then a cry goes up from the crowd as a woman appears at a ninth-floor window holding a little bundle.

"It's a baby," screams the woman next to me, aghast. The mother beckons to a fireman who teeters at the very end of his ladder, but even from behind our crowd barrier we can see that the ladder falls tantalisingly about five feet short. Suddenly she drops the little bundle into the wobbling cradle of the fireman's outstretched arms and the crowd gives another unified gasp. He hands it gingerly down to a colleague below him on the ladder and climbs back up. The mother disappears from the window, only to return with another baby, who is similarly rescued.

As the fire continues to rage the police push us further back, and we rush home to watch the drama unfold on cable. The news anchor informs us that 345 firefighters from 79 different units are now on the scene and the blaze is being classified as an eight-alarm fire — each alarm representing a call for further units to attend. It is the highest alarm fire in New York for four years.

Friday: We pore over the papers' coverage of the fire with horror for, like many New Yorkers, we have no fire escape or sprinklers and

are uncertain of what to do in a similar emergency. We are appalled to read that it took only 20 minutes for the flames to reach the 11th floor, shooting up a service shaft, skipping several floors and bursting on to the roof before most of the residents knew that anything was wrong. Thirty-three of them ended up in hospital, though the rescued babies, six-week-old twins, were unscathed. But the most disturbing detail was the advice from the fire chief on the scene. Commissioner Von Essen instructed his men to run along each floor, banging on doors and ordering residents to evacuate immediately.

"But that completely contradicts the advice we were given after the Macaulay Culkin fire at Christmas," exclaims Peter. In that case, Culkin's mother evacuated her family from their apartment on 60th Street after a fire broke out in her bedroom. But she failed to close the door behind her and a blaze whipped along the corridor. As the flames vaulted from floor to floor, residents abandoned their apartments and rushed to the stairwell to escape. But four of them never made it and were discovered lying dead, having suffocated from the fumes.

The following day the fire department gives warning that, in a similar situation, we should not leave our apartments but should stay inside, open our windows and place rolled-up, damp towels under the front door.

Saturday: Our friend Michael calls in a state of some gloom. He and his wife, expecting their first child, are in the process of relinquishing their two-bedroom apartment in Manhattan for a four-bedroom house in Brooklyn. But on Thursday, a block away from their intended new home, Amy Watkins, a 26-year-old student, was stabbed to death walking home from the subway. The NYPD says that she was stabbed in the back with such force that the murder weapon, a kitchen knife, had gone right through her.

The truth is that we have got so used to hearing that New York's murder rate has dropped to its lowest point in 30 years that we have become blasé. But this week the NYPD announces its quarterly crime statistics, which reveal that the murder rate has risen for the first quarter of this year, the first such rise in five years. It's not a vast increase, but it has tempered the buoyancy of New York's renaissance with the spectre of the bad old days when crazed crackheads held the city in fear. Still, we find ourselves rationalising with Michael that the fact the murder is such a big news story here is comforting confirmation of its rarity.



Joanna Coles
NEW YORK LIFE

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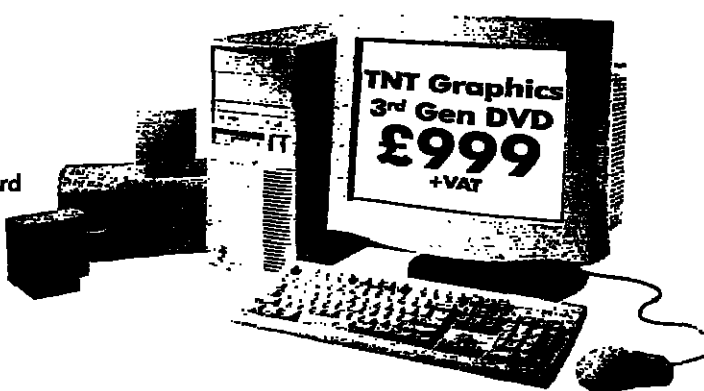
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They grip their guns more tightly

A murder has hardened IRA attitudes, says Martin Fletcher

Crossmaglen in South Armagh must be the only town in the United Kingdom that has erected a memorial in its square not to the dead of the two World Wars, but to the dead of the IRA. "Glory to you all, praised and humble heroes, who have willingly suffered for your unselfish and passionate love of Irish freedom," reads the inscription beneath a statue of a youth astride an eagle.

Dozens of soldiers and police have been killed in and around the town during the past 30 years. Crossmaglen is the heartland of militant republicanism and, even before loyalists murdered Rosemary Nelson, the human rights lawyer, on Monday, there was no support there for IRA disarmament.

I had, by coincidence, spent Monday morning taking the pulse of the town. Everyone told me the same thing. The Unionist demand for IRA disarmament was a "stalling device", a "trick". If the IRA complied, the Unionists would simply demand something else. There was no way that they would let Sinn Féin into government.

The town was awash with black and yellow bunting. As President Clinton discusses the decommissioning deal with Gerry Adams and David Trimble in the White House today, the Crossmaglen RUC's Irish Football team will be playing Ballina in the all-Ireland final.

"What's happening in Washington is just a sideshow," said Paddy Short, a Crossmaglen publican who is Clare Short's uncle. The match was what mattered to the townsfolk. They had given up on politics. If Mr Adams tried to deliver IRA disarmament, "the Provos would tell him to mind his own business".

The IRA must start to disarm to prevent the collapse of the Good Friday accord, but if hopes of that happening were slim before Mrs Nelson's murder, they were all but shredded afterwards.

The murder, timed to cause maximum damage to the peace process, tapped into the very heart of republican folklore. It reinforced the republicans' perception of themselves as a community besieged by loyalist paramilitaries, aided by the security forces of an oppressive British State. Sinn Féin, hell-bent on securing the Royal Ulster Constabulary's disarmament, shamelessly exploited the murder.

Indeed John O'Dowd, a local Sinn Féin councillor, marched straight up to me when I arrived at the scene, within an hour of the explosion, and unequivocally declared that the RUC was responsible.

There is no evidence to support the Sinn Féin accusation. But the circumstances of the bombing play to republican grievances, and reinforce their determination to keep the weapons they need to "defend" themselves. The manner of Mrs Nelson's death, her unpopularity with the security forces, her role as legal champion of nationalist causes, and revived accusations of collusion between paramilitaries

and police, all incline republicans to suspicion.

The bomb that killed Mrs Nelson was far more advanced than the pipebombs previously used by the Red Hand Defenders, the loyalist terrorists who claimed responsibility for the attack. The RUC, it is alleged, had every reason to want Mrs Nelson out of the way. She had, for example, secured the release of Colin Duffy, a prominent republican charged with murdering two policemen in 1997. She had also filed numerous formal complaints of RUC harassment and intimidation against both herself and her clients. The murder was, for republicans, an eerie replay of the killing of Pat Finucane, another prominent solicitor murdered by loyalists in 1989. It is widely believed — rightly or wrongly — that he was set up by the security forces, and 1,000 lawyers signed a petition last month demanding a judicial inquiry into his death.

Compounding this atmosphere of distrust has been the revival of accusations that state forces and paramilitaries have colluded. A former loyalist, Bobby Philpott, claimed last week that the security forces gave him more help to target republicans than he could handle.

Sir Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, moved swiftly to counter Sinn Féin's allegations by announcing an independent investigation of the murder, but the damage was done. The disarmament deadline is only a symptom of the deeper problem facing the peace process — the lack of trust between republicans and Unionists. Mrs Nelson's murder has greatly exacerbated that problem.

For disarmament to take place republicans have to believe that Unionists genuinely want to reach an accommodation with nationalism, but Mrs Nelson's killing will fuel republican suspicions that Northern Ireland remains a Protestant State for a Protestant people. For Unionists to admit Sinn Féin to government they have to believe republicans are committed to democracy, but they will hardly be encouraged by its leaders' demagoguery.

There will be little to celebrate at today's St Patrick's Day festivities in Washington. Mr Clinton will exercise his legendary powers of persuasion on Mr Adams and Mr Trimble, and the party leaders will fly home for a final fortnight of frantic talks before this Good Friday government-imposed deadline.

Right now, it is impossible to see how the deadline can be broken. Making predictions in Northern Ireland is, however, a notoriously foolish occupation. If the peace process has shown anything, it is the Province's extraordinary capacity not only for wrecking its achievements, but also for rebuilding at the last second from the brink of the abyss. Yet, on this St Patrick's Day, there are few in the republican heartland, or beyond who are inclined to be hopeful.

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JACQUES THE JOKER, THE QUEEN OF SLEZEE AND A HOUSE OF CARDS.

Derail the gravy train

The Commission has taken Europe for a ride, now it must be abolished

So did you laugh or cry yesterday when you heard that the European Commission had resigned? Did you stab your sausage with a bit of joy, or did you gaze mournfully at a limp comfale? In short, were you smug or sad as the courtiers had a bad attack of nose-bleed on the royal road of history?

It rather depends on what you think happened. What was significant on Monday night was not that the Commission resigned. It was that Edith Cresson and Jacques Santer did not resign, despite being accused of corruption, nepotism and maladministration in a report that they had commissioned to save their skins. Because they refused to resign, the other commissioners knew that they would all be voted out by the European Parliament. Since they would then find it harder to regain their jobs, they thought it best to tipice immediately from the banquet, in the hope that they could more easily tipice back.

Those of us who have long been sceptical of the European Commission and all its doings can be allowed a brief cry of triumph. Those who plagued Brussels with tales of corruption and who protested over its waste, nepotism, inertia and bureaucratic flatulence can say a simple hurrah. Sections of the Brussels document make Whitehall's Scott and Macpherson reports read like Enid Blyton: directorate after directorate is depicted in terms more appropriate to the East Side Mob. The section on the Greek-run Tourism Directorate needs an X certificate. These were the people who accused any critic of being "anti-European", a little Englander, an offshore islander. They said we had missed the train, had no European vision, could not see the big picture.

What garbage. Let nobody ever again — ever — attack those who for years questioned the bland assertions of unelected and unaccountable Eurocrats. All was well at Brussels, said the Berlaymont hardis, or not too bad, or not as bad as Westminster, or not as bad as the United Nations. For decades they rejected all criticism of the fraudulent use of public subsidies, regional grants and aid contracts, and the edifice of private "consultancies". Go to any Third World aid project and ask which is the least efficient and most corrupt: the answer is always the European Union. See any unnecessary European road or

grain silo or half-built tenement and it is probably the EU's. The snouts were raised from the trough only long enough to cry "Xenophobia".

The British and Scandinavian participants in these shenanigans claim to have been a restraining hand. We must believe it. In contrast, France was still claiming on Monday night that Mme Cresson had done nothing wrong. In these matters, Paris, Madrid, Lisbon and Rome inhabit a separate moral realm. They make good football teams, tennis, pasta and love, but the report depicts them as incurably bad administrators. Those who can see nothing wrong in defrauding taxpayers should never be trusted with other people's money, let alone their social, regional and currency policy.

Brussels yesterday vanished under a mountain of self-exculpation spin. The incident was the "coming of age" of European democracy. It was an opportunity for "ruthless action to root out corruption". I even heard the hilarious excuse, from a British Commissioner, that the Commission's problem was to be overworked and understaffed. Most of Brussels operates to a schedule that makes Nero seem a workaholic. But the gist of the argument is that Europe has somehow been purged and its institutions made more democratic.

This is a fallacy. First we should note how the crisis began. It was not the Commission seeking to set its house in order. Nor was it the auditors, who have been reporting frauds for years. Nor was it the Parliament, which last month voted itself an expenses regime that would send an English district councillor to jail. True, the Parliament had after twenty years finally had the guts to demand a report on corruption, on pain of censuring the Commission. But the whistle was

blown only after the press had taken up the cause of an auditor whom the Commission was persecuting for revealing its frauds. The media rammed his message down the throats of enough MEPs.

The Union's apologists say that this proves the virtue of stronger parliamentary control, to fill the Commission's famous democratic chasm. It does no such thing. International bodies such as the European Commission are unreformable. Half the trouble in Brussels, as at the UN, is the practice of allocating jobs and contracts by national quotas: not merit. Nor is the European Parliament appropriate as an auditing agent. It is not the fount of sovereignty for European government. That role is performed by the Council of Ministers. Since the Parliament does not raise taxes, it has no interest in cutting spending. It is a European House of Lords, a rest-home for sidelined politicians.

At such moments there is no avoiding a reprise of first principles. Yes, there is a role for European co-operation. It is primarily in resolving the classic area of non-military conflict between nation states, which is trade. Such co-operation must be subject to treaty and its structure must be strictly tailored to its purpose. Fair trade cannot become a Trojan horse through which supranationalism meddles in every detail of a nation's political economy.

Such co-operation is most effectively engineered through the Council of Ministers and its secretariat. This peripatetic Field of Cloth of Gold may be cumbersome, messy, loud and often ludicrous. Yet it is real, composed of elected, serving politicians. It is Europe's true confederal authority. It is the Council of Ministers that must sooner or later pick up the shambles to which Brussels diplomacy has reduced

European farming over the past three decades.

By comparison, the Commission is an eerie being, secretive and self-important. It can take aboard auditors galore. It can flatter the Parliament with question times and reports. It can even half-resign from time to time, much as Henry II took up the scourge. But it will make no difference. The Commission is a bureaucratic entity that does not mirror a political one. It can perpetuate but not legitimate itself. As Europe widens, it also fragments. The euro may prove to be the last cry of the postwar settlement.

To read yesterday's Brussels document is to wander to a land a thousand miles from Britain. Its inhabitants seem detached from the political cultures they supposedly serve and on whose taxes they depend; a world of ceaseless conferences, projects and programmes, of consultancies, agencies, trips and backhanders. These international bodies are like the pre-Reformation episcopacy. Safe in their comfortable sinecures, they can rely on a cosmopolitan priesthood to whom they offer a plausible mission statement, first-class travel and no great burden of work beyond proselytising the cause. Nobody ever abolishes them.

National governments, for all their imperfection, are the proper focus for European co-operation. The Council of Ministers is their club. The Council should have no need for supranational bodies such as a European Commission or Parliament. I do not believe there is any popular demand to establish a truly potent supranational government of Europe. The French, Spanish and Germans are no more eager than the British to submerge their national interest in a new supranationalism. They may be more canny in pursuing that interest in the councils of Europe. That is quite different. Mme Cresson, a true European? It is a joke.

A whistle-blower has stopped this particular train in its tracks. Today it stands puffing and blowing off steam while the crew argues on the platform. But until someone has the courage to admit that international bodies can sometimes outlive their usefulness, it will not be stopping for long. The sceptics have had their moment of joy.

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Simon Jenkins



Gallery search

THE huge Nazi art scandal that hit the National Gallery is set to engulf the Tate. Sir Nicholas Serota, its Jewish director, has appointed a team of experts to examine the provenance of his collection, fearing that up to 700 works "could potentially bring problems".

As head of a cross-gallery working group into "tainted art", Serota (below) feels obliged to rummage in his own cupboard: toilers are sweating through his 61,000-strong collection — which includes daubs by Picasso, Matisse and Sargent — to check for looted works. "Only a few hundred at most could cause difficulty", I am assured.



PENGUIN-exporting is the latest regal money-spinner. Lord Harewood, the Queen's cousin, is packing 12 of the sea sorts off to Shanghai. Harewood House Bird Garden has signed a replacement: a mynah bird, who can do "very good impressions of fire engines".

DOUGLAS HOGG has found the solution to the dilemma that so dented papa's career: he intends to remain in the Commons and inherit the Viscountcy of Hailsham.

As part of his failed attempt to become PM, Quintin Hogg disclaimed his title as the 2nd Viscount in 1963 so that he could return to the Commons. He was given a life peerage seven years later, becoming Lord Hailsham of Saint Marylebone. Anthony King, constitutional expert, says: "You can't stop someone using a title. It's a jolly outcome." Will Baroness Hogg, Douglas's wife and the head of John Major's policy unit, start calling herself Viscountess?

THE Diary tip for Cheltenham, courtesy of Michael Howard, who now has more time to spend with his tick-tack: Teetum Mill for the Gold Cup; Norman Williamson for the jockeys' championship.



PAUL BURRELL is carrying on his mistress's good work by tending to Paul Michael Glaser — Starksy to David Soul's Hutch. The loyal butler to Diana, Princess of Wales, will meet Glaser next week: the actor was comforted by the Princess after his wife and daughter died of AIDS. "I grew up with Starksy and Hutch," says Burrell, who, faintly surreally, shared a table with Antonio "Huggy Bear" Fargas and Soul at Grosvenor House.

THE air will fill with light chatter about the Blackwell Tunnel digging works at Scots when the manager has a hundred taxi drivers in the back of his restaurant: this is to celebrate its inclusion in the Knowledge, the only joint to be so honoured.

UNIONS are to make ministers pay Millennium Dome workers fat wages — for the inconvenience of seeing in the new epoch. After 90 performers were chosen for the millennial shows, Equity is demanding special rates and TV rights. The New Millennium Dome Experience Company is cross: "You can't compare performers to waiters getting £1,000 on the millennium. It's fairly clear the jobs entail working on New Year's Eve."

HAVING rallied his troops to "break free from the past", William Hague supped with Sir Edward Heath.

THAT champion of good causes, Mohamed Al Fayed, wants to launch an anti-smoking campaign. Inspired by Rory Bremner's impersonation, Mo wants to appear in adverts with the inscription "fug fags". ASH is now asking Mo to fund a legal campaign against British tobacco companies.

JASPER GERARD

'I cannot wait to welcome the first stout-booted green anorak who clambers enthusiastically over my garden fence'

This is a big morning for me. It is as big a morning as I have seen in 40 years, it is a morning that stands poised to change the entire course of my life, because, having spent those four decades searching for a style with a y, I suddenly find myself searching for a stile with an I.

Two stiles, in fact — one for my western fence, one for my eastern fence. Now, you will say: hang about, that is a bit pretentious even for him, his fences should be called left and right, they are only 50ft apart, you do not need map co-ordinates for a suburban garden, a Crickiewood lawn does not call for a compass, you can distinguish between his herbarious borders without a sextant, but you are wrong.

Any minute now, people will be tramping down my road with Ordnance Survey Sheet No 176 and they will be serious people,

they will have stout boots, they will have woolly hats, they will have lumpy knapsacks, and they will be thinking in terms not of left and right but of east and west, for that is the kind of serious people they are.

And you may be sure they will not take it at all kindly if, having gone to all the trouble of navigating by the stars and working out my longitude to three decimal points to get to my eastern or my western fence, they find that they cannot climb over it. They will very likely start kicking it with their stout boots, or banging their stout sticks on it, or, at the very least, poking their woolly-hatted heads over it and shouting "Oy!", and that is the last thing I want. Which is why the first thing I want is a pair of stiles, set in my two fences so that serious people can climb over them.

Because, thanks to the generosity of our great Environment Secretary, they will arrive now have the Right To Roam, and it is incumbent upon each and every one of us to be ready for them. Indeed, to welcome them with open arms, for they are paying us a very great compliment in wanting to ramble across our premises: they have waited a long time to see my daffodil fluttering and dancing in the breeze, to have a squint inside my lovely shed, to feel the hoe, sketch the shears, sniff the Parquat, to take one another's photographs leaning on my rustic Homebase bench, climb to the top of my towering rockery from which it is possible, on a clear day, to see three major roads, and, scrambling down to

Alan Coren



the shimmering expanse of water beneath, step across it, and find some sheltered spot — beside my sun-dappled car, perhaps, or on my mossy kitchen step — to eat their organic sarnies and brew their herbal tea.

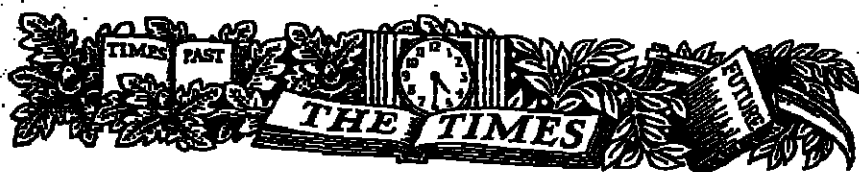
I cannot for the life of me understand why so many of my fellow landowners were so enraged at the announcement of the proposed legislation, so fearful of the imminent incursions of the wandering herd, so desperate to hurt themselves into the battle to exclude him. For myself, I cannot wait for the first green anorak to clamber over my fence, mistake me for the gardener, and, chucklingly set straight on the matter, whip out his ring-bound notebook and rain-

proof pen and begin keenly to quiz me on local lore.

How I long to point out the rutted bit of lawn which stands as undisputed evidence of where the extinct Crickie wood flowed, through the bear-packed wood of which my gnarled acacia is the sole survivor! How I yearn to take his arm and lead him to the sacred site, possibly by the dustbins, maybe behind the garage, where rumour has it that wretched Corens fought to the last man to thwart Caesar's march on Hendon! How I relish the thought of filling him in on the restless ghosts of drawn and quartered highwaymen who, having once lurked beside my compost heap to plague the Edgeware Stage, now cry "Stand and deliver!" every Martinmas Eve. I may even take them up to the Big House to show them the unique systems of plumbing and pointing and guttering and

drive-laying created, just for me, by generations of itinerant artists who brought to Crickiewood the arcane techniques honed to perfection on the botches of Limerick.

I may start doing cream teas. I may take a correspondence course in Morris dancing. I may embark upon the felt-tip monogramming of souvenir items in lustrous Crickieware from Bhs, or bottling zesty relishes and aene remedies distilled from my own conkers, or stringing chic necklaces of interesting local pebbles, and set up Ye Olde Estate Suitcase, by the gate, to sell them. Aha, you cry, so that is the truth of it, he supports the Right To Roam because he sees a bob or two in it, but you are wrong, I support it because, for those 40 long years, I have been only a mere householder. But today, thanks to Michael Meacher, I am a landowner.



GET OUT, STAY OUT

For any Commissioners to keep their jobs is illegal and wrong

The European Union today presents a sobering spectacle. Its untested currency has, with good reason, yet to win the faith of the markets. Unemployment higher than at any time since the 1930s is a standing reproach to its political class. Germany, its anchor economy, is politically as well as economically adrift; and failures to tackle structural reform are making the EU a high-cost, low-growth drag on the world economy. Trade wars with the United States go unresolved; and enlargement, Europe's great strategic imperative, is being held hostage to endless quarrels over controlling the EU's spending and cleaning up pork-barrel regional and structural funds and the indefensibly spendthrift common agricultural policy.

The EU's supranational institutions, thrust naked this week into the limelight, are in no better shape. The incompetence, cronyism, fraud and sharp practice that have long riddled the European Commission, publicly chronicled year after year by the EU's Court of Auditors in reports left to gather dust, have led only now — and only in the certainty that the Commission would otherwise be sacked by the European Parliament — to the collective resignation of its President, Jacques Santer, and the entire complacent, arrogant and mostly second-rate team selected, let it not be forgotten, by EU governments.

As for the Parliament, the triumphalist claims of MEPs to have struck a great blow for probity and democracy — conveniently, and not coincidentally, on the eve of facing their electorates — would be more credible were they not famously passengers on their own rich gravy train of excessive perks and fiddled expenses. And Pauline Green, the leader of its Socialist Group, has not so much discovered virtue but had it thrust upon her. Last December, when she tabled a motion of censure against the whole Commission while whipping her group to vote against it, her aim was to defeat the critics and protect the Commission's back. Only because some German and other north European Socialists broke ranks to side with a reforming minority did her tactic misfire, forcing Mr Santer to agree to the independent inquiry which issued its first report on Monday.

In limp language, whose meaning no bureaucrat can twist, these four wise men and one wise woman delivered, to their great credit, a coruscating indictment not just of individual commissioners, but of the entire management and corporate culture of the European Commission. They have made an incontestable case. In Tony Blair's words, for "root and branch reform". Will this finally happen? Not if governments, while talking grandly about Europe's great opportunity for "renewal", see no more evil in Brussels than is politically expedient. Not unless they change the management — the entire management — forthwith. Not unless they insist on credible systems to hold commissioners and bureaucrats to account. And not unless they appoint a new team with a brief not just to root out malpractices but to shut down entire programmes, such as tourism and humanitarian aid, which the Commission is incompetent to manage and which should never have been added to its ever-expanding empire. What is needed is a cultural revolution as fundamental as that imposed by the Trevelyan reforms on the British Army after the Crimean War.

Nothing is less certain. The suicide ritual was barely ended before this undead Commission rose unrepentant to its feet, with even Edith Cresson saying that she had no need to clear her name because the Commission was collectively responsible. Mr Santer had the gall to "note with considerable satisfaction that I am whiter than white", to make a bid to stay on himself and to insist that the entire commission could be "renominated". The independent experts observed: "The temptation to deprive the concept of responsibility of all substance is a dangerous one." To that temptation, the commissioners and most EU governments seem ready to yield.

This supposedly cathartic drama could end up as a "Japanese" purge, in which heads roll only to ensure that things continue much as before, with much the same discredited cast. That would be an outrage. The German Government is thinking along these lines. It has called on the whole team to stay on as caretakers and is thinking in terms of a "new" interim Commission drawn mainly from the current 19 commissioners, to serve out this year. Mr Blair has demanded Mr Santer's head; but he has discredited himself as a reformer by insisting that Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock, the two British Commissioners, be reappointed. This special pleading will prompt other governments to say that their commissioners too should stay: none will want to admit that "their" people are more bent than others.

To reappoint them would be illegal under the Treaty on European Union. Article 159 states categorically not only that a resigning Commission President must be "replaced"; it says that "the duties of a member of the Commission shall end when he resigns... the vacancy thus caused shall be filled for the remainder of the member's term of office by a new member". In Brussels and EU capitals, lawyers are citing the more ambiguous Articles 144 and 158 as a justification for reappointing Commissioners. But these articles deal with a parliamentary vote of censure; since none took place, they are irrelevant to the case.

Sir Leon and Mr Kinnock did not have to resign; they did so as part of a collective manoeuvre to shield others, including Mr Santer, from taking individual responsibility. They must accept the consequences of that choice, and go, just as Mr Blair should be insisting, as did William Hague yesterday, that Mr Santer and other commissioners faulted by the inquiry should clear their desks at once. Brussels can function with a skeleton caretaker team, which in any event should serve for no more than a few more weeks.

Only if the Council of Ministers upholds the treaties and sweeps the table bare can they credibly claim to address, under new management, the agenda for reform. This should not be the partisan affair that Mr Blair, in his contemptuous treatment of Mr Hague's pertinent proposals in the Commons yesterday, made of it. Mr Blair has some good ideas, notably the need to establish individual accountability right through the bureaucracy, and to prevent improper uses of consultants and outside contractors. But he should have welcomed, rather than jeered at, the practical thinking on the Opposition benches.

Mr Hague is right that commissioners should abide by a clear code of ministerial responsibility, and that powers must be created to dismiss them individually for fraud or maladministration. He is right about the need for binding codes of conduct covering the appointment of senior Brussels bureaucrats, ending the commissioners' corrupt habit of "parachuting" former MEPs and cronies from their personal cabinets into lucrative Commission posts. He is right that Mr Blair's ideas about financial auditing do not go far enough and that the independence of a new anti-fraud unit must be guaranteed by having it report direct to the Council of Ministers. He is right that the solution to the Commission's plea that it does not have enough staff is to shrink its ever-expanding role by returning the administration of some programmes to national control.

There is no precedent for this crisis. That is where the "opportunity" that Mr Blair perceives resides. But he seems chiefly nervous that the "sad catalogue of negligence and mismanagement", which has not so much been revealed as finally thrust under the public's nose, will be "another chance to bash Europe". It is nothing of the kind. But timidity and half-measures on his part, at this critical point, could make his fears come true. For Europe's sake, Mr Blair will have face the necessity of offending some of his European friends.

FIFTY-EIGHT DAYS TO DIE

The terrible case of Mary Ormerod

The allegations surrounding the death of 85-year-old Mary Ormerod provoke the deepest disquiet. Her doctor, Ken Taylor, is charged with "serious professional misconduct". Those three words camouflage the severity of the accusation — that he departed from the standards expected of healers to hasten her passing. "I did not kill" Mrs Ormerod, he claims. But the fear that he unethically accelerated nature's course lingers, disturbingly. And so does the need better to guide doctors through the moral and medical dilemmas which govern the passage from painful illness to easeful death.

Mrs Ormerod had suffered seven strokes and had senile dementia and mild Parkinson's disease diagnosed. The nurses claim that Dr Taylor ordered them to stop giving her a food supplement, and that they protested. Mrs Ormerod, it appears, was not in a permanent vegetative state. She was not being fed artificially, but could swallow food injected into her mouth. The hearing was told that Dr Taylor's medical notes did not suggest her condition was deteriorating. Fifty-eight days after the doctor to withdraw her food, Mrs Ormerod died. The inquest recorded the cause as broncho-pneumonia, brought on by malnu-

trition. Dr Taylor hoped that, by his withholding food, his patient would simply "slip away". This act took him into a legal no man's land in which the guidance for treating patients is extremely vague. Had she been in a persistent vegetative state, Dr Taylor would have needed to refer her case to the courts before denying her nutrition.

Yet Dr Taylor claims that continuing to feed Mrs Ormerod was, in his mind, "inappropriate" and "inhuman", while his actions were "ethical and appropriate". He admits that he did not seek a second opinion before pursuing his treatment, in spite of nurses allegedly disagreeing with him. If his actions were "appropriate", why did Dr Taylor purportedly need to be persuaded to record his sudden change of treatment in the medical notes?

Even if the General Medical Council were to find Dr Taylor guilty as charged, he has already escaped a worse fate. A potential prosecution for murder was dropped, apparently for want of evidence. That such a pass was reached illustrates the pressing need for the British Medical Association to issue clear advice for treatment of patients like Mrs Ormerod. Doctors need a better compass to guide them through this moral minefield.

'Scandal and incompetence' of EU Commissioners

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

From Mr Malcolm Hill

Sir, Your leader today refers to the culture of corruption which has afflicted the EU since the 1950s.

Before damning individuals or the low standards of public administration in Spain and France, let it be remembered that the Council of Ministers is responsible for the growth of this culture. They have created policies of discredited protectionism and endorsed regulations of such silliness and complexity, that corruption on a vast scale has been unleashed in many fields: notably agriculture, fish, the single market and three fixed-currency regimes.

The belief that only a few individuals are tainted in the present exposure is ridiculous.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM HILL,
58a Abingdon Road, W8 6AP.
March 16.

From Mr F. W. J. Wheatstone

Sir, By resigning en bloc the European Commissioners have taken the only sensible course in view of the refusal of Edith Cresson and perhaps other named Commissioners to resign.

However, senior Labour and Conservative politicians are in danger of undermining the whole reform programme. By calling for the retention of the blameless British Commissioners, a step which the Germans will, I am sure, follow, it will become a matter of French and Spanish pride that their two (each) Commissioners will be reinstated. If that happens little or nothing will be achieved.

Hard though it may be, Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock must allow their resignations to stand, if for no other purpose than to show that there is some honour left in British politics, and, after all, there must be some corporate responsibility.

The Government and the Conservatives must get together and reverse their "shoot from the hip" policy, or cynicism about politicians will become even greater than it is at present.

I am, your obedient servant,
F. W. J. WHEATSTONE,
Bassett Manor,
Hartfield, Sussex TN7 4LA.
March 16.

From Professor Ian Markham

Sir, In amongst the scandal and incompetence of the European Commission, we now have the best argument in favour of the European Union. A democratically elected Parliament held a corrupt Executive to account forcing it to resign: a model of democratic practice.

Sincerely,
IAN MARKHAM,
Liverpool Hope University College,
Hope Park, Liverpool L16 9JT.
March 16.

From Mr Colin Bullen

Sir, The exposure of the corruption and incompetence at the heart of the European Union is a vindication of those who have long opposed UK involvement in the whole project. However, this is far more than a matter of a few individuals, to be solved by a replacement of personnel. It results from the nature of the EU itself.

Now is the time to begin constructive disengagement from the EU, the end of which will see us remain friendly trading partners of European nations, but without the need to sacrifice all that we have built over the centuries.

Yours faithfully,
C. R. BULLEN
(Member, NEC, Campaign for an Independent Britain),
119 Douglas Road,
Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2UE.
March 16.

From Mrs Jane Miller

Sir, Surely the collapse of the Commission is just another nail in the EU coffin. Whatever we may think of Hague, at least he is giving the Eurorealists a choice.

Yours faithfully,
JANE MILLER,
2 Adlam Buildings,
Salisbury SP2 7SA.
March 16.

From Mr Michael Hatch

Sir, Events in Brussels may prove to be a vital step in reforming the culture of dishonesty that has so long prevailed there; but who will carry out the reform?

MEPs have recently shown their determination to keep in place the institutionalised fraud whereby they receive payment for fictional expenses. It must be for the Government of individual member states to seize the initiative if we voters are to have any confidence in the EU.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HATCH,
Hilly Meadows,
Mortimer West End,
Reading, Berkshire RG7 2AD.
March 16.

From Mrs Marina Oliver

Sir, Should we be surprised? Most EU Commissioners were politicians, and politics requires a loud mouth and the ability to talk fast — not qualifications for competent administration.

Mismanagement is inevitable in any large organisation if the managers' appointments are for political services rendered or to sideline a political embarrassment, instead of for proven ability.

Yours faithfully,
MARINA OLIVER,
Half Hidden, West Lane,
Bledlow, Princes Risborough,
Buckinghamshire HP27 9PF.
marina.oliver@virgin.net
March 16.

From Mr Michael Forrest

Sir, As the European Commission clearly cannot organise a whelk stall it should surely not be left in charge of fishing regulations.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL FORREST,
Appletree, Thames Street,
Sonning, Reading RG4 6UR.
mforrest@sonning.demon.co.uk
March 16.

From Mr Paul Asbury

Sir, Now that the EU Commissioners have quit, they should all be available to the International Olympic Committee on a full-time basis.

Yours etc,
PAUL ASBURY,
39 Belclare Street, The Cap,
4061 Queensland, Australia.
asbury@netscape.net
March 16.

The ever closer union

From Miss Dorothy Harris

Sir, Three cheers for the forthright article by Peter Shore which highlights some aspects of the true nature of the European Union ("Who are you kidding, Mr Blair?", March 9).

This is a much more realistic view than that portrayed by Mary Ann Sieghart (article, March 5). She seemed to believe that this country can be in the EU and remain free to choose what we take from it. The Maastricht treaty will not allow a two-tier Europe — "ever closer union" is the ultimate objective, and our fellow Europeans make no secret of that.

Ms Sieghart believes that Britain will be able to veto and resist, for instance, "endless proposals for harmonisation". In the Europe to which we unfortunately belong, such matters are not proposed, and then debated and whitewashed. Decisions of the European Court of Justice show quite clearly how tax harmonisation or any other European matter will come about. The recent decision in *ICI v Colmar* demonstrates how any European country can go to the court and challenge UK tax laws as being in opposition to the single market, and this country has then to comply. There will be nothing Tony Blair or any prime minister can do about it.

The EU is not democratic. All the laws we have to implement here come from 20 unelected people — the Commissioners. The Parliament, like the old Soviet one, is a sop.

When will people realise just what has happened to our country and its much vaunted freedoms, won over the centuries at such great cost?

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY HARRIS,
Pot Hill House, Dial Post,
Horsham, West Sussex RH13 8NX.
March 9.

The Bulger case

From Mr Roddy Gye

Sir, At the time of their conviction and sentencing, I argued through your columns (letter, December 2, 1993) for compassion for James Bulger's young killers. I was rewarded with an anonymous telephone call advising me to "try telling that to the Bulger family".

Of the various intents of a custodial sentence — containment, deterrence, rehabilitation — retribution is the least edifying in a civilised society. In the case of child criminals it should be unconscionable.

The Bulger family, in their continuing grief, should seek no comfort in the destruction of two more young lives. Nor, on the matter of sentencing, should the judiciary in Britain or Europe be swayed by the opinions of victims or their families, in the style of the Sharia courts. The criminal law serves and protects society as a whole, victims and culprits alike, and should be administered with dispassion.

Yours faithfully,
RODDY GYE,
9 Orlando Road, SW4 0LE.
March 16.

Questions for Hague on the euro

From Sir Julian Critchley

Sir, Could I through you put some questions about the euro to Mr William Hague? What is the point of trying to maintain that the EU is merely a grouping of sovereign states when the treaties on which it is based clearly endow it and its institutions with an element of supranationality?

What is the point of accusing continental politicians of wanting to abolish their own countries and create "a federal European superstate"? If this were true none of them would be re-elected and the East Europeans who have escaped from just such a superstate would not be queuing up to join.

If the future of Europe as laid down at Maastricht is so unattractive why have three EFTA states, Austria, Sweden and Finland, since joined, and also signed the Amsterdam treaty?

How do you think you are going to influence our allies and the Brussels Establishment by being negative, destructive and confrontational?

Have you ever wondered why the swings against Michael Portillo and Norman Lamont were well above average at the 1997 election?

Why did you demand a referendum on the Amsterdam treaty while opposing one on devolution? Both had constitutional implications.

Now that the Asian "tigers" have succumbed to cat flu, what new extra-European undertaking are you seeking to promote? A North Atlantic Free Trade Area?

If as you make out, the continentals are so uncompetitive, how is it that over half the cars on our roads are made on the Continent? Over half our lorries come from Germany and Sweden, two countries with allegedly the highest social costs in the world. And how is it that the Germans export twice what we do, that Ford is transferring more and more car production from the UK to the Continent, and that BMW is to rescue Rover and not the other way around?

When it comes to fishing you say you wish to renegotiate the common fisheries policy (CFP) in order to take back so-called British waters. Have you calculated how much compensation you would be required to pay? More than enough to negate the British budget rebate, surely? Moreover, if the CFP is as disastrous as you make out can you explain why we sell £250 million of fish to France alone each year? Or why Cornish fishermen export 90 per cent of their catch to Spain, and the Tories failed to hold both St Ives and Lowestoft at the last election?

Is it not high time you told the party the truth about Europe?

Yours etc,
JULIAN CRITCHLEY
(Conservative MP,
1959-64 and 1970-97),
19 Broad Street, Ludlow SY8 1NG.
March 11.

Birkenhead and Scouse

From His Honour Judge John Morgan

Sir, Edward Grayson (letter, March 11) is a leading authority on sport and the law but his knowledge of accents north of Watford leaves much to be desired.

F. E. Smith, that great luminary of the Inner Circuit, whose lifelike portrait hangs proudly in the judges' library here in Liverpool, was born and bred in Birkenhead, a twopenny ferryboat ride from the Liver Birds. His accent, which C. B. Fry purported to recall from his Wadhams days, would have been as far removed from Gracie Fields's Rochdale as Geoff Boycott's is from Billy Connolly's. But then Fry only ever came north to score the odd century at Old Trafford and would know no better.

The unique quality of the accent Beryl Bainbridge discarded so early is said to derive from the draught from the Mersey Tunnel getting up sensitive Liverpool noses.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MORGAN,
Queen Elizabeth II Law Courts,
Derby Square, Liverpool L2 1XA.
john.morgan11@virgin.net
March 12.

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Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Linking race and ability in schools

From Mr Ray Ward

Sir, George Bridges's excellent article, "Playgrounds for political correctness" (March 12), is somewhat marred by his dismissal of the premise that colour and ability are linked followed by his statement that the performance of Indian, Chinese and other Asian pupils (carefully not mentioning other racial groups) continues to outstrip white children.

Doesn't that imply that colour — or at any rate race — and ability are linked?

Yours faithfully,
RAY WARD,
Flat 97,
17 Sheppard Drive, SE16 3EJ.
March 12.

From Mrs Marion Leeper

Sir, I was appalled by the complacency of George Bridges's article suggesting that multicultural education was nothing more than unnecessary political correctness. He suggests that being colour-blind is good enough: that teachers should stick to maths and English and that moral and social education is none of their business.

Many teachers are seriously trying to confront racism and develop an education fit for a multicultural society. To be told that we should stick to worrying about league tables and exam results and forget about the education of the whole child does not help us.

Children today are bound to meet people with different skin colours, cultures and religions. They have to learn that it is good to be different: that other cultures, as well as their own, are exciting, valuable and worth respecting.

I wish Mr Bridges could have seen the expression of joy on the face of the Japanese boy in my class when I introduced a topic on Japan, and seen the children learning about difference in its most practical form as they tasted sushi for the first time, wrote haiku poetry, played with chopsticks and origami.

This is not being politically correct: it is valuable learning, it is fun, and it may even improve our league-table performance.

Yours sincerely,
MARION LEEPER
(Primary school teacher),
The Old Vicarage,
4 Stretton Avenue,
Cambridge CB4 5EP.
March 13.

From Mr Michael Austin

Sir, Ofsted's own figures (report, March 11) show a school exclusion rate of 160 per 1,000 for black Caribbean pupils and 5 per 1,000 for Chinese. It is inconceivable to me that such a huge disparity could be accounted for by teachers' alleged racial prejudices, unwriting or otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL AUSTIN,
10 Bladon Close,
Credition, Devon EX17 1EL.
March 12.

From Mr John Whittle

Sir, If our education system is institutionally biased against certain ethnic groups, it follows with inescapable logic that it is also biased in favour of Chinese pupils.

I believe the safest assumption to make about any "official" statements on racism is, where these are not untrue, they may simply be untrue.

Yours,
JOHN WHITTLE,
185 Garstang Road,
Preston PR2 8JQ.
jppw@talk21.com
March 12.

Princes in the Tower

From Mrs Fabienne Smith

Sir, Your Diary (March 13) reports that Prince Edward's firm, Ardent, wants to exhume the two Princes in the Tower from their resting place in Westminster Abbey. This has already been done, in 1933.

In 1987 you reported the findings of a comparison of the Princes' bones with those of their cousin, Anne Mowbray, who was married to the younger Prince when she was six, and died aged nine ("Modern science convicts Richard III of murder", May 21, 1987).

The boys' blood relationship to Anne, and their precise age at death, were established, confirming that the skeletons were indeed the Princes', and that they died during Richard's reign.

Yours sincerely,
FABIANNE SMITH,
55 Manor Place,
Edinburgh EH3 7EG.
March 13.

Stealth defence?

From Mr Barry Pixon

Sir, So the Chairman of British Invisibles attended dinner with the Royal Navy Board, did he (letter, March 16)? How do you know?

Yours faithfully,
BARRY PIXTON,
6 Helvellyn Drive,
Burnley, Lancashire BB12 0TA.
barypixton@lineone.net
March 16.

Dracula's dancing queen

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THE TIMES



Rattle at his best

Arts, page 36

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY MARCH 17 1999

French offer up to \$6bn for stake in troubled Japanese carmaker

Renault takes wheel at Nissan



Schweizer: veto power

RENAULT, the French carmaker, moved yesterday to become one of the world's big five manufacturers when it offered to buy a 35 per cent stake in Nissan, the troubled Japanese auto group.

The deal is likely to be worth between \$4 billion and \$6 billion (£2.5 billion to £3.7 billion). It raises questions over the long-term future of Nissan's factory in Sunderland, although most analysts expect the plant to survive.

The stake taken by Louis Schweizer, the chairman of Renault, will give him veto power over Nissan and the likelihood of three seats on the Japanese company's board.

Carlos Ghosn, the second-in-command at Renault, who is given much of the credit for the French company's return to financial health, is tipped to become the director-general of Nissan.

The two carmakers are likely to share research and development costs in the short term and manufacturing plants in the longer term.

With Nissan, Japan's second-largest car manufacturer after Toyota, sagging under an excess production capacity, estimated at almost 500,000 vehicles a year, French analysts called into question the future of Nissan's Sunderland plant.

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The long haul

UK truckers fly the flag of convenience

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Dow Jones index scales landmark 10,000-point peak

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND ANDREW BUTCHER

SHARES on Wall Street yesterday cleared the 10,000 mark for the first time, capping a four-and-a-half-year bull run that has seen the market rise some 6,000 points.

It took just 20 minutes of trading for the Dow Jones industrial average to scale the final 42 points, reaching a peak of 10,001.12.

A cheer went up from the floor of the New York Stock Exchange and there was even some half-hearted content-throwing before traders returned to their posts.

The foray into uncharted territory, however, proved short-lived, with the Dow quickly falling back into negative territory as profit-takers took the landmark as a cue to move back into the market.



Cheers of traders at the historic moment later subsided as the Dow fell into negative territory

Surplus suggests Brown will beat forecasts

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE Government recorded another healthy budget surplus in March, leaving the City convinced that the Chancellor will beat his revised full-year borrowing forecasts.

The Treasury, however, insisted that the traditional year-end departmental spending spree would leave the final figure close to the Budget prediction of a £5.2 billion surplus.

FTSE 100	6291.5	(-4.8)
Yield	2.58%	
FTSE All Share	2862.31	(-1.21)
Nikkei	18072.32	(+23.22)
New York	9987.85	(+8.88)
Dow Jones	10001.12	(+42.00)
S&P Composite	1306.54	(+1.25)

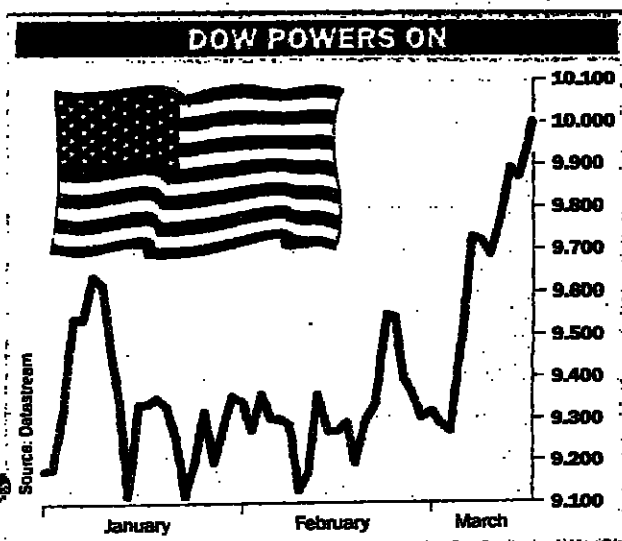
US RATE	
Federal Funds	4.75%
Long bond	5.45%
Yield	5.45%

LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	5.75%
Libor 3m	5.75%
Libor 6m	5.75%
Libor 12m	5.75%
3-month bill	5.75%
6-month bill	5.75%
12-month bill	5.75%

STERLING	
New York	1.6248
London	1.6248
Frankfurt	1.6248
Paris	1.6248
Madrid	1.6248
Rome	1.6248
Yen	161.45
Yen	161.45
Yen	161.45

DOLLAR	
London	1.0914
Frankfurt	1.0914
Paris	1.0914
Madrid	1.0914
Rome	1.0914
Yen	106.8
Yen	106.8
Yen	106.8

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$12.75
GOLD	\$263.95
London close	\$263.95
Yen	161.45



Goldman partners in line for \$7m

By CAROLINE MERRELL, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PARTNERS in Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, will average make \$7 million (£4.2 million) each under the terms of the flotation, revealed yesterday.

Eleven per cent of the bank, worth a total of \$3 billion, is to be sold off. About half of that, 5.5 per cent, is to be divided among the bank's 220 partners, who include Gavyn Davies, the bank's chief economist based in London and an adviser to the Prime Minister.

The amount each partner will get depends on their length of service. Partners will not be able to access their shares for between three and five years. It is as yet uncertain what proportion of the residual 89 per cent is held by each partner. It is these stakes that make each of the partners worth tens of millions of dollars.

About 2.5 per cent will be divided among the bank's other 13,000 employees, giving average windfalls of about £50,000. Another 1 per cent will be reserved for former partners of Goldman Sachs. The public will be offered about 1 per cent of the remainder, about 1 per cent, to be held by Sumitomo of Japan.

New policing move for the boys in Bluewater

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

THE owners of the £1.2 billion Bluewater shopping complex in north Kent have struck a radical deal with the local constabulary, buying themselves the services of 22 police officers at a cost of £750,000 a year.

The contract with Kent police guarantees that at least six bobbies are on the beat at Bluewater at any one time. The service applies around the clock, seven days a week.

It is thought to be the first time a British police force has struck such an arrangement with the private sector, though officers are provided for a fee to police events that have potential for public disorder, such as football matches. Kent police also have an arrangement to provide a permanent presence at the Channel Tunnel.

Unigate in Terranova hostile bid

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

UNIGATE, the food manufacturing group, has launched a hostile cash bid worth £228.5 million for Terranova, the chilled foods company that was spun off from Hillsdown last year.

Terranova immediately rejected the 125p share offer, calling it "an opportunistic bid designed to capture Terranova on the cheap". Shares in the company leapt from 104½p to 135½p, as investors bet on Unigate having to increase its offer.

Unigate's shares were steady at 410½p. Unigate has long been in pursuit of the Terranova business, having come close to buying it before its demerger from Hillsdown.



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Premier Oil under siege

By CARL MORTISHED

PREMIER OIL is under siege from a rebel shareholder group that wants the company to pull out of Burma and sell assets in other politically isolated countries, such as Albania and Cuba.

Peter Felter, a lawyer at Clyde & Co, has teamed up with Viscount Cranborne in a bid to launch a management takeover of the company whose chief executive is Charles Jamieson. Mr Felter is proposing himself as chief executive and admits candidly: "I am trying to effect a shareholder rebellion." He reckons the Premier management's strategy has failed and objects to the Burmese investment on moral, financial and political grounds.

He said: "The political reality is the pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, has accused Premier of financially and morally supporting the regime. There are US sanctions against Burma and if the regime falls Premier could lose out badly." The rebels have created a website to publicise their proposals but have yet to requisition a meeting of shareholders.

Premier shares were unchanged at 13½p yesterday, against a 12-month high of 51p.

WEBSITE: www.premier-oil.co.uk

Tarmac aims to unlock value with demerger

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT

TARMAC yesterday pinned hopes of a share price surge on its plans to split the business into two companies. The demerger could be completed by the autumn.

The company is spinning off its construction services division from the traditional building materials business. The move was heralded last month after the failure of a £1.8 billion merger with Aggregate Industries.

Sir Neville Simms, who will lead the construction division as chairman and chief executive, said: "We will be able to unlock far more value by demerging." Shareholders will vote on the plans in the summer and the split should happen two months after that.

Sir Neville, currently group chief executive, said the demerger would not immediately lead to fresh merger moves with a rival. A number of other names, such as Amec and BICC's Balfour Beatty, have been linked with Tarmac, but Sir Neville said that no talks were under way.

However, analysts believe that the division will make would-be partners far more interested in Tarmac, whose share price has languished and which is seen as increasingly diverse as construction



Sir Neville Simms said the demerger would not lead to fresh merger moves with a rival

services moves further from the buildings side. Construction services comprises the higher-margin businesses of facilities management and the company's Private Finance Initiative work, which has been dogged by contract delays and bureaucratic procedures. The building materials side

of Tarmac will retain the company name and have Roy Harrison, the director in charge of that operation, as its chief executive, with Sir John Banham, the current Tarmac chairman, retaining his role.

Debt will be split between the two companies and both will have progressive dividend

policies, Tarmac said. Tarmac said pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 rose to £131.4 million from £115.2 million. Earnings per share increased 10.7 per cent to 9.3p. The final dividend of 2.8p (2.65p) lifted the total 2.7 per cent to 5.8p.

Tempus, page 28

Capital in second casino writedown

By JASON NISSE

CAPITAL CORPORATION, the troubled gaming company, yesterday wrote down the value of one of its casinos and came under pressure to write down the values of its other two.

The group blamed the increase in gaming levy, made in the Budget last year, for a £2.5 million writedown in the value of the Crownwell Mint, the Kensington casino it bought two years ago for £22 million. This is the second writedown made by Capital since it bought Crownwell and cuts the carrying value to £18.2 million.

Analysts queried why the group had not also written down the value of its two other casinos, Crookford's and the Colony Club. Capital admitted that the clubs had been independently revalued this year.

The company declined to comment on revelations in *The Times* that its auditor, Deloitte & Touche, is being investigated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England & Wales over its work on Capital's accounts.

The combination of the Crownwell writedown, the increased gaming levy and an absence of high-rolling gamblers led to a fall in pre-tax profits from £12.4 million to £3.54 million in 1998. Earnings fell from 7.86p to 1.64p. A final dividend of 2p makes a total of 3p (5.125p) for the year.

De La Rue jobs go as demand slows

ABOUT 130 jobs in Britain are to be axed in a widespread restructuring at De La Rue, the banknote printing group. The company is shedding 500 jobs worldwide at its cash systems division, which designs and makes hole-in-the-wall machines and other cash-counting devices. The British jobs will be lost in Portsmouth, where the group is merging its two operations on to one site. The poorly performing division has been hit by slowing foreign demand.

Ian Much, chief executive, yesterday pledged that the move was the group's last big restructuring. Last year De La Rue announced 375 job losses in its main banknote-printing plant in Gateshead. Its cash-handling systems division currently accounts for about 40 per cent of group turnover. The total restructuring bill is to come to about £43.9 million, with a total cash cost of £30 million. De La Rue shares rose 7½p to 217½p.

Charter flags disposal

FURTHER restructuring lies ahead for Charter, the engineering business whose shares have halved to 38½p from 77½p over the past 12 months. Announcing a 3.6 per cent slide in underlying pre-tax profits to £85.1 million for 1998, the company said it wants to sell its specialised engineering business, which contributed operating profits of £28.9 million last year. Charter is holding the total dividend at 31.5p, with an unchanged share of 22p, despite a 2.8p fall in underlying earnings to 57.6p a share.

Coke bottler in red

Coca-Cola Beverages, the bottling company, said it was over the worst of the downturn in Eastern Europe as it returned a £15.5 million loss for 1998 (£24.1 million profit). It took a £10.3 million charge for hyper-inflation, £84.3 million for depreciation of equipment and £14.2 million for a factory closure. Underlying profits fell to £124 million (£133 million) with headline losses equating to 0.1p (1.5p earnings) per share. There is no dividend. The shares, floated eight months ago, fell 2½p to a low of 89p.

Chadburn agrees bid

THE board of Porter Chadburn, the label manufacturer, has agreed to a £46.6 million takeover offer from Mail-Well, the US-based printing company. The bid, at 38½p per share, represents a premium of 66 per cent of the closing price of Porter shares before yesterday's announcement. Although based in London, over 70 per cent of Porter's sales are in the US. The purchase is aimed at expanding Mail-Well's range of labels in North America.

Dickins's new label

ROB DICKINS, the millionaire music executive who discovered The Corrs and helped to relaunch Cher's career with *Believe*, her bestselling single, yesterday formed a joint venture record label with Sony Music called Instant Karma Records. Dickins, 48, who left his job last year as chairman of Warner Music in the UK — after a clash with his US bosses — turned down a more lucrative label deal with his former employers to work with Sony.

B&B launches defence

BRADFORD & BINGLEY yesterday launched a £5 million campaign in defence of its mutual status, after a resolution to convert the building society into a bank was tabled last year by self-confessed carpetbagger Stephen Major, supported by 70 other members. The society has sent out voting packs to its 2.5 million members, who must complete and return the forms by April 23 or attend the annual meeting on April 26.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.70	2.52
Austria Sch	21.47	19.81
Canada \$	63.21	58.25
Denmark Kr	0.0051	0.0050
France F	11.85	10.76
Germany DM	5.75	5.34
Greece Dr	10.23	9.45
Hong Kong \$	13.43	12.23
India Rupee	125	109
Indonesia Rp	17972	12972
Italy Lit	1,2263	1,1373
Japan Yen	6.51	5.92
Malaysia RM	3.58	28.19
Netherlands Gld	206.29	188.76
New Zealand \$	0.674	0.615
Norway Kr	3.22	2.98
Portugal Esc	13.31	12.37
S Africa Rd	310.82	288.79
Spain Ptas	10.80	9.85
Sweden Kr	250.05	240.28
Switzerland Fr	14.17	13.07
Taiwan NT	2,533	2,315
Thailand Baht	807.86	592.20
USA \$	1.732	1.588

Notes for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Rhodia on brink of £455m A&W victory

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

THE battle for Albright & Wilson appeared to be all but over yesterday when Rhodia, the French chemicals company, trumped a US bid for the phosphates group with a £455 million cash offer.

Rhodia has secured the support of Phillips & Drew Fund Management for its 145p-a-share offer, an 11 per cent premium to the 130p bid from Albemarle, announced earlier this month. PDFM has committed its 23 per cent stake to Rhodia unless a third party offers to pay more than 160p for its shares.

Analysts were sceptical that a higher offer would be forthcoming. Michael

Eastwood, of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "I think it is over." He pointed to the synergy benefits available to Rhodia, which already has large phosphate interests. Albemarle is set to make a profit on the 18 per cent stake it has built up.

Rhodia's bid is being made through an off-balance-sheet vehicle, ISPG, which is wholly owned by Donau Chemie, an Austrian company formerly controlled by Rhodia. It is designed to keep the cost of the bid off the balance sheet of Rhone-Poulenc, Rhodia's 60 per cent shareholder. Rhone-Poulenc is currently in difficult merger discussions with Hoechst.

Peer buys Mirror's old HQ for £40m

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

LORD Hamlyn of Edgworth, the Labour-supporting publishing millionaire, has bought the former stamping ground of another of Labour's print tycoons, the late Robert Maxwell.

The Mirror Group, which is now based in the London Docklands, yesterday said that it had sold its old headquarters in the centre of the capital at Holborn, for £40 million.

A private company of Lord Hamlyn, 73, a former director of Reed International, in league with Chelsfield, the property group headed by Elliott Bernerd, has bought the site for £31 million in cash. They are also taking on £9 million of debt.

Detailed planning permission already exists for a new glass and steel building on the site designed by Sir Norman Foster & Partners.

The lettable area is about 320,000 sq ft and the building will provide a new headquarters for Andersen Consulting.

The new building, which is expected to cost about £135 million, is scheduled to be completed by March 2001.

The Mirror, which is currently under offer from two hostile bidders, is seeking to reduce debts and slim down to its core interests of national and regional newspapers.

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مكتبة النور

Wall Street traders indulged in a bout of irrational exuberance as the Dow Jones index broke through 10,000 for the first time.

Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan was probably not joining in the cheering. It was over two years ago that he warned of the dangers of the stock market over-heating, coining the phrase which will now be permanently appended to his name. Just as Jim Callaghan has never been able to throw off the image of him cheerily remarking "Crisis? What crisis?" as the emergency squad from the IMF headed to Britain, Greenspan's hang-dog visage will always be seen mouthing a warning against the market's "irrational exuberance".

Yet when he first started to voice his concern, the Dow stood at just 6,400. Some investors were not paying attention. Since it started this bull run four years ago, the US index has grown by 160 per cent. Faced with such defiance, Mr Greenspan has become more muted in his qualms but, if he felt uneasy in 1997, there is every reason why he should feel even more so now.

The levels of US share prices are as sustainable as yugic flying. The performance of corporate America does not justify price levels which see even non-Internet stocks selling at 40 times earnings and yields which barely register on the payout scale. Mr Greenspan does not want to be seen as a scaremonger but he did mention

in his evidence to the Senate Banking Committee last month that "Equity prices are high enough to raise questions about whether shares are overvalued."

Mr Greenspan is obviously not convinced that we have entered that wonderful world of the new paradigm in which the old rules do not apply. He is suspicious about the dawning of a new age, free of booms and busts, where markets head ever upwards, and we all join hands in a virtuous circle of increased investment, higher productivity, higher wages and increased asset prices.

The chairman of the Fed is a realist not an idealist. America has a huge market of its own but it cannot remain immune from what goes on in the rest of the world. The Asian crisis may have bottomed but the climb out of depression will take several years. The Latin American mess is far from settled. In the meantime, these countries have excess supply and promise intense competition. Corporate profits in the US will show the strain and it is by no means certain that investors will shrug their shoulders and say that they are there for the long term. So far, US savers have demonstrated remarkably strong nerves but they are stretched taut now. Some may

see the magical 10,000 as the point at which to take their hands off some profits and run for cover.

When that happens, London will feel the chill. The FTSE has been pulled along in the wake of the Dow and will not be able to resist the tug when it heads in the opposite direction. Optimists maintain that the weight of money looking for a home will ensure both markets remain strong. But they said the same about Japan.

EU agenda slips its 2000 deadline

The plan is not working. German ministers should have begun trolly round the EU yesterday to drum up support for Agenda 2000, the package of budgetary and voting reform to prepare the way for the next lot of entrants. Instead, having introduced each other to their new Finance Minister, they were scurrying around wondering what you do when the entire Commission resigns.

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor



Budget talks were already getting not very far slowly, having agreed another mind-numbing compromise on farm protection that requires yet higher subsidy spending. Even touchier ground was about to be broached, including the fate of Britain's rebate.

Outgoing commissioners already complain that they did not have enough money to tackle an ever-rising workload properly, let alone to root out fraud. Given that mismanagement, few member states are likely to be keen to increase the budget even by the £20 billion allowed under the most recent dispensation. Better for the Commission to do less.

Some are already casting envious glances at the eventual £11 billion a year reserved for new entrants. Put off enlargement and you could divert most of that.

Who should pay more is even more contentious. Charles Jenkins, who yesterday launched a pamphlet on the issue for the Federal Trust, says that Britain should give up its special rebate. Instead, he wants a general re-

bate system. The net contributions of each of the wealthier members would be balanced by a general adjustment so that they corresponded roughly with national income.

As even Mr Jenkins concedes, Tony Blair cannot afford to "give in" over the UK rebate if he wants to entice his flock into the euro. Likewise, any general rebate system would require statesman-like and courageous gestures from the big net gainers, notably France. In other words, it would be extremely expensive.

The French Government may be prepared to send Edith Cresson to the guillotine, provided that the President of the Commission remains a francophone. It is not likely to hand back all those farm subsidies from German industry that began the EU.

The German presidency may not instal a new Commission until its mandate ends in June. Amid all this delay, confusion and excitement, the chances of the rump Commission and the Council of Ministers agreeing a

new budgetary system by then look slim. So the whole muddle will have to be handed on to the Finnish presidency and a "new" Commission, if there is one.

Those waiting to enter the EU for the new millennium may be knocking on the door until their knuckles are sore.

End of the track for Nissan

Nissan should not rely on Gallic generosity either. France invented the "yellow peril" scare a century ago, and the French motor industry has been Japan's biggest enemy in Europe. A link with Renault would be no more than unconditional surrender for Japan's indebted number two motor manufacturer. This is an example of defeat rather than consolidation in the global motor industry.

For Renault, perhaps this was the only way to become a global player. European firms have learned the hard way that mergers with French companies are always takeovers. Renault was an even less desirable partner than Peugeot-Citroen because the French Government still controls Renault, making any partner an outpost of the French State. That

is why Volvo shareholders threw out a merger with Renault but accepted a takeover by Ford.

Nissan has even had to accept the French way of business. Renault will take full control through a minority share stake, maximising its power for the minimum equity capital. Both debt and excess capacity plague Nissan. That immediately raises fears over the Japanese company's pioneering plant in Sunderland. For Renault, it should have no future. Logically, European production should eventually be consolidated in France.

Fortunately, Sunderland is the most efficient car plant in the UK and probably the best in Europe. It should be the conduit to transfer modern manufacturing methods to France. But don't count beyond five years.

Carpet tax

THE Bradford & Bingley Building Society showed it was not afraid of change when it dropped Mr Bradford and Mr Bingley from its corporate identity. But the board is desperate that the B&B should remain a mutual and not surrender to carpetbaggers, and it is spending £5 million to encourage its members to agree. The principle of directors spending shareholders' money to persuade them that the board knows best is not new. Yet the re-branding exercise cost just £10 million. Clearly the B&B feels its members will take some persuading to forgo the windfalls.

Bodycote shares fall on warning

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

SHARES of Bodycote International fell more than 10 per cent to 890p yesterday even though the metal processing group announced a 49 per cent jump in 1998 pre-tax profits to £76.2 million.

The shares were adversely affected by the company's warning that the slowdown experienced in its Scandinavian and US operations towards the end of last year was continuing. It said that this was an indirect result of the Asian economic crisis.

Analysts said that some unrealistic earnings expectations and a bout of profit-taking were also to blame for the fall. The shares peaked at £12.82 in May 1998.

John Chesworth, chief executive, said acquisitions had provided almost two thirds of the profit increase, although organic growth levels were still strong. However, he said that Bodycote would be unable to find sufficient purchases this year to repeat that growth rate. The company spent £77 million on acquisitions last year,

the bulk of which were merged into Bodycote's heat treatment operations. The division reported an 83 per cent jump in pre-tax profit to £20.8 million.

Mr Chesworth said that although Bodycote's gearing remained less than 10 per cent, he had no intention of pursuing a share buyback. Bodycote shares would have to be half their current price to consider such a move, he said. Instead, the company would focus on capital investment as a means of generating organic growth.

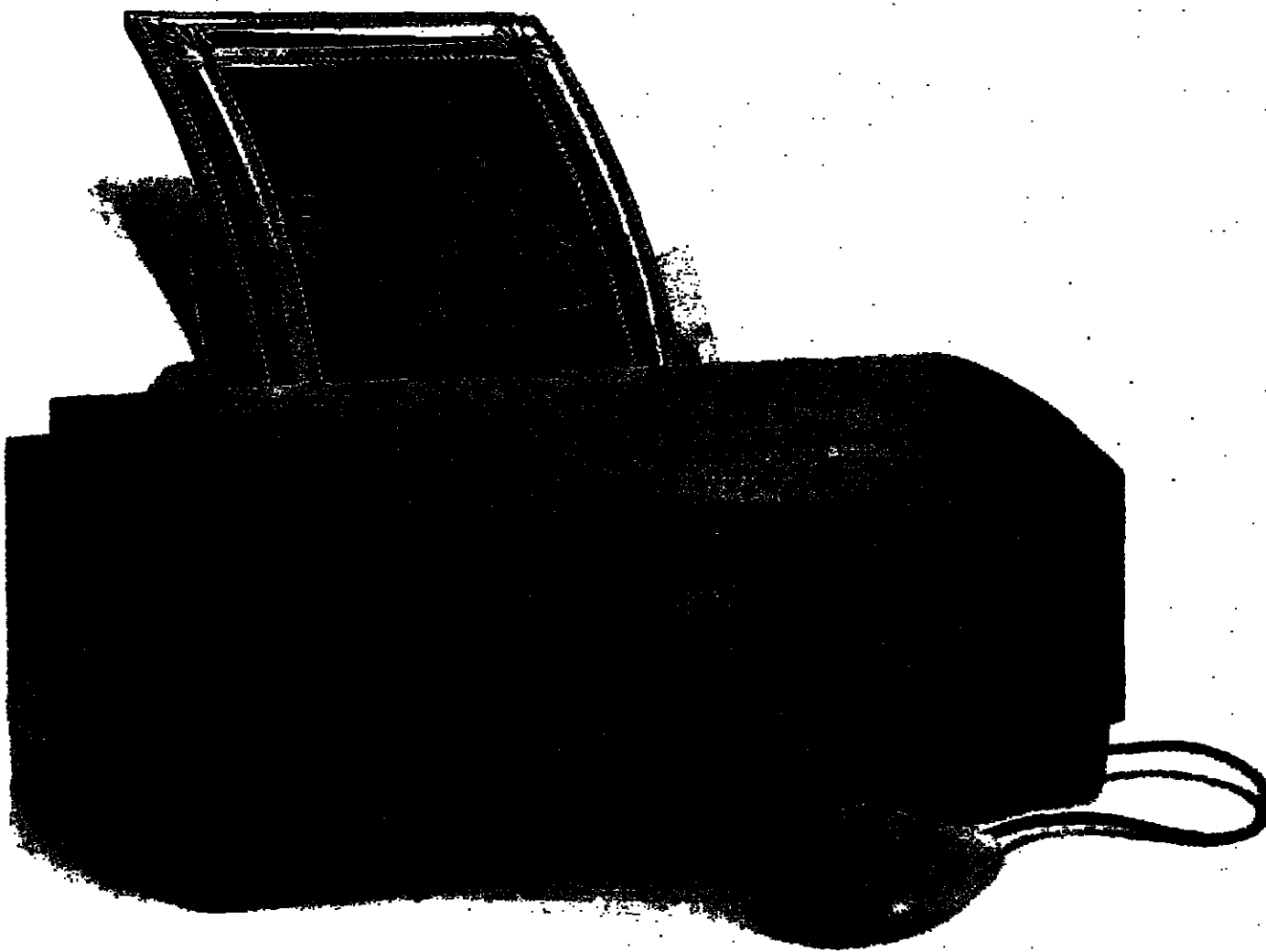
Mr Chesworth said that Bodycote's ability to cut costs quickly in response to demand fluctuations had limited the impact of the Asian malaise on its margins.

Bodycote also announced that it would undertake a five-for-two share split to increase its market liquidity and reduce share price volatility.

A final dividend of 7.75p was declared, making a total of 12p for the year (9.1p).

Temps, page 28

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Telewest doubles earnings

By RAYMOND SNODDY

TELEWEST, the UK's largest cable television supplier by number of subscribers, reported a near doubling in earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation to £146 million for 1998.

For the year, Telewest, enlarged by the purchase of General Cable and the mopping up of Birmingham Cable, increased revenues by 39.5 per cent to £539.2 million.

"The results reflect our focus on customer sales, service and marketing," said Tony Hilsley, chief executive, who joined Telewest last year from Walkers Crisps.

The emphasis on marketing at Telewest was underlined yesterday by the appointment of 32-year-old Philip Jansen as group marketing director.

The enlarged company made a pro-forma net loss of £341 million against £430 million in 1997.

Temps, page 28

Computer reseller 37% ahead

By CHRIS AYRES

COMPUTACENTER, the computer reseller and services group whose shares failed to recover from the IT sector crash last summer, yesterday repaired some of the damage by reporting a 37 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for 1998 to £64.6 million.

The company, which supplies computer systems to large corporations, reported a 40 per cent rise in sales to £1.6 billion. However, net margins slipped from 4.6 per cent to 4.2 per cent.

The results saw shares in the company rise 23½p to 523½p. However, they remain well below the company's flotation price of 670p.

Computacenter will pay a maiden final dividend of 2.5p a share, up from 2p, on May 21. Philip Hulme, the Computacenter chairman, said that prospects for the group in 1999 "remained strong".

Temps, page 28

Kalon maintains payout despite slip

KALON GROUP, the UK paints company that is considering a £500 million bid approach by Total, the French oil company, is maintaining the total dividend for 1998 despite a fall in pre-tax profits to £37 million from £45.2 million (Martin Barrow writes).

The fall was blamed on competition in the market for paints and coatings, aggravated by the strength of the pound. Turnover was little changed at

£474.3 million, compared with £472 million in 1997. The dividend stays at 6.2p.

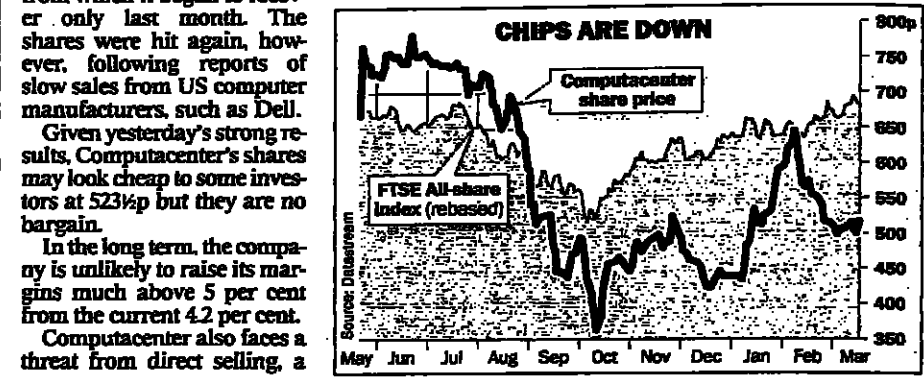
Mike Hennessy, Kalon's managing director, said: "During the year we experienced increasingly difficult market conditions. However, we still managed to produce margins that were considerably better than those of European competitors."

Total already holds a 63 per cent interest in Kalon.

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FRASER NELSON

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Developers home in on shoppers

Paul Armstrong analyses the plans for Bluewater

Developers of the £1.2 billion Bluewater project say that its location in Kent is justified by its ability to entice shoppers from far and wide. However, they have what amounts to a partial back-up plan should their forecasts of commuting customers prove a little ambitious.

The investors, led by the Australian property group Lend Lease, are in the throes of ensuring that at least 30,000 potential shoppers take up residence in the 10,000 houses they plan to build on the edge of their retailing colossus in Dartford.

Lend Lease insists that its extensive, although little-talked-about, residential plan is a stand-alone project and is in no way designed to support Bluewater's economics. The forecast number of shoppers at Bluewater, it says, does not in-

clude a "single soul" from its emerging city.

This means that the nearby residents could be seen as significant icing on the cake for a complex which, according to its owners, already boasts robust economics. In fact, it could not be seen any other way.

However, Lend Lease is eyeing a much bigger prize than a few extra customers at Bluewater. The developer believes that it will "generate a few million of profit each year and rising" by developing residential, office and light industrial complexes on the land surrounding its retail display.

Lend Lease also thinks that this will go on for 50 years, creating an impressive exponential equation for its accountants to contemplate back at home.

Like the land housing Bluewater, the area earmarked for Lend Lease's long-term project is owned by Blue Circle, the cement producer, which will be eternally grateful to the Australian developer for helping it to unlock the value of its once-dormant asset.

Blue Circle has agreed to a joint

venture with Lend Lease that will enable development of the 2,000 acres it holds around the shopping complex. Blue Circle contributes the land and Lend Lease provides the expertise and working capital. The pair do not plan to introduce other investors, as has been done at Bluewater.

Stuart Hornery, chairman of Lend Lease, says that the idea emerged from the company's continuing "cities of the future" research, which identified areas east of Lon-

don as strategically important European regions in coming years. "We thought it was obvious, but when we asked around it was perceived by Londoners as being very brown-field," Mr Hornery said.

However, he says that this view overlooked the fact that Ebbsfleet, which is part of the Blue Circle land, has the only railway station on the planned fast link to the Channel Tunnel. Its attractiveness could be enhanced further if the link was extended to St Pancras.

Blue Circle has eight million sq ft of land around the station that has been approved for residential and retail developments, although planning is in the early stages. In the meantime, the joint venture has started building the first of 500 houses, costing £200,000 each, at the Stone Castle site immediately adjacent to Bluewater. Campus-style office parks are also planned for this area.

A third site, Crossways, will consist mainly of offices and warehouses in an attempt to capitalise on the region's perceived strategic advantage as a distribution point.

In keeping with Lend Lease practice, the buildings will be sold soon after they are leased. It is also the company's policy not to disclose its financial returns from individual projects.

"We want to see if we can create a new environment where we mix office and residential more closely," Mr Hornery said. "We know that from the middle of 1995 to 2015, 4.4 million new houses are needed in Britain and basically there is no land."

"There are few locations like this. We have big demand working for us. There is no risk attached to it at all. There might be a bit of experimental housing but the bulk of it will be stuff you will see everywhere."

Why didn't someone think of it before?

Britain's defiant truckers haul up their flag of convenience

UK hauliers are ready to flee fuel and road tax costs by moving overseas, writes Adam Jones

Britain's truckers are contemplating life overseas. The high cost of diesel and road tax has long left them vulnerable to cheaper foreign competition and further increases announced in Gordon Brown's Budget last week have sparked a rebellion.

Backed by their trade associations — and with a sympathetic campaign in *The Sun* newspaper — trucking firms are threatening to set up businesses in other European Union countries and then "commute" back into Britain, continuing to serve their customers but denying the UK Treasury any tax benefit to offset the damage they cause to our roads and air.

The process is called "flagging out", a term more commonly applied to ships. But just how bad is the plight of the UK trucker and how serious is the threat to go overseas?

There is no doubt that fuel and road tax is much more expensive in the UK than elsewhere in the European Union. A litre of diesel costs about 71.2p in the UK. In France, it would be a about 45p. In Spain, 41p.

It is imperative that UK hauliers taking loads to France leave with a minimum of fuel so they can fill up on the other side of the Channel — and they must also fill up before returning in the hope of making a reasonable profit.

The most commonly quoted comparison for vehicle excise duty — or "tonnage tax" — is for a 40-tonne lorry with five axles, which the industry says is Europe's standard big truck.

The Budget increased the tax on this vehicle from £3,210 to £5,750 in the UK. This compares with £291 in Portugal, £338 in Luxembourg, £459 in France and £1,751 in Germany, according to the Freight Transport Association, a trade body that represents truckers.

The increases in the Budget were no surprise, however. The Labour Government had pledged to increase road fuel tax rates by an annual average of 6 per cent above the rate of inflation. This continued an "escalator" arrangement introduced by the Conservatives in 1993 at the slightly lower level of 5 per cent.

Steven Norris was the transport minister then. Bizarrely, Mr Norris, now out of office, is campaigning against the rolling fuel tax rises as head of the Road Haulage Association, another trade body. He denies that his members are suffering at the hands of a



Hard shoulder: in the face of growing foreign competition, Eddie Stobart is threatening to register half of his 800-strong haulage fleet in Luxembourg

SPOTTING EDDIE STOBART

FEW trends in modern business can be more baffling than the mythology that has sprung up around Eddie Stobart, the Carlisle haulage firm that was started in the 1970s (Adam Jones writes).

The company's trucks, which each bear a woman's name, have become motorway celebrities, reportedly after Jools Holland, the musician, said that he liked looking out for the lor-

"Frankenstein's monster" that he helped create. He claims that the Labour Government has abused the system by increasing the annual multiplier. More convincingly, he argues that the tax simply is not working and that vehicles are not being priced off the roads.

The Government did warn last November that it was going to target 40-tonne, five-axle lorries. As a concession, it said 41-tonne lorries with six axles — which spread a load more evenly and therefore less destructively — would be taxed much more lightly. This has been greeted with disdain by the haulage firms, who say 41-tonne trucks are not allowed on roads in continental Europe.

In the meantime, foreign haulage firms are increasing their presence in Britain, by about 100,000 trucks a year — a growth rate of some 14 per cent. Big players include Norbert Dentressangle of France and Willi Betz of Germany. When they arrive at Dover with tanks full of cheap petrol, they can drive up to 1,500 miles. As of last July, they have freedom to tout for business in the UK.

The increased competition is undoubtedly hurting domestic firms. Pre-tax profit margins at Eddie Stobart, a privately-owned haulier based in Carlisle, were pretty thin at less than five per cent in 1997.

In 1998, with foreign competition mounting, the situation worsened. Profits fell from £3.6 million before tax to about £1.8 million, even though turnover rose from £77 million to more than £100 million — a profit margin of less than 2 per cent.

ries to relieve the boredom of being out on the road touring. The company, owned by Eddie Stobart Jr and his brother William, was overwhelmed with inquiries from other closet truck spotters. A fan club was duly formed and there are now a reputed 20,000 spotters.

One variation on the spotting game is called "Nobbies and Stobbies", where one team looks out for Eddie

Stobart lorries and another looks out for those of his French arch-enemy, Norbert Dentressangle. Eddie Stobart produces collectable toys and replica driver uniforms. There are several unofficial Internet sites, full of pictures of Stobart lorries, with names such as *lorryspotting.com*.

They swirl with gossip about the company, such as whether it intended to introduce "an American-style

tax rises will add £4 million to the company's costs. He added: "The transport side of our business has been getting worse and worse. It's all about survival."

He is threatening to register half of his 800-strong fleet overseas, possibly in Luxembourg. The drivers would continue to live in the UK and their trucks would also stay here most of the time, returning to their nominal headquarters six

times a year to satisfy residence regulations. This is untested ground, though. Donald Armour, the resident flagging out expert at the Freight Transport Association, reckons the Government could move to stop this kind of arrangement.

While there has been a wave of interest since the Budget, he thinks flagging out will only really be an option for the large, who have the scale to deal with the extra legal, account-

ing, insurance and regulatory red tape overseas.

Those firms who do flag out may be tempted to hire foreign workers to replace UK-based staff. This happens in UK shipping, where owners register vessels in dependencies such as the Isle of Man so they can reduce crewing costs by not paying national insurance. About two-thirds of the bigger UK cargo and passenger ships are operated from offshore locations. In 1980, they would all have been based on the mainland.

But haulage firms have to face the fact that other workers within the European Union — who have the same rights to drive over here as British nationals — are likely to be more costly to employ and more likely to be unionised. There are further restrictions on using cheap labour from Eastern Europe.

There will be a stand-off while the industry continues to demand rebates on diesel duty. Then, who knows. The trade bodies say truckers are agitating for more direct action, such as port blockades. It works for the French, might it not work for them?

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Broker who loved life

OLDER City hands will be shocked to learn of the death of Alan Harman, aged 55, once a well-known stockbroker who left the Square Mile in 1974 when Chapman & Rowe, his firm, was hammered on the Stock Exchange after failing to meet its obligations.

Harman finally settled in Spain, where he dealt in commodities. He killed himself last week in Puerto Banus, apparently unsettled by financial worries.

"He just loved life — I really don't understand," said one who knew him in the City.

Before the secondary banking crisis saw for Chapman & Rowe, Harman had a successful career trading with institutions, and the manner of its ending meant he left behind him in the City a few enemies. I am told, "I think there's a lot of jealousy involved," says his former colleague.

A COLLEAGUE dropped in on the European Commission office in London yesterday. Unearthly peace and calm, he reported, and the face of Jacques Santer still beaming down on the scene. (Shouldn't they have turned it to the wall? Oh well.)

He asked about this strange calm as the Commission entered the most turbulent few weeks of its history. "But we're thinking a lot," a senior official said enigmatically.

Polls apart

THE Commission was the venue for the launch of a pamphlet, entitled *The Unforeseeable Consequences of Mr Gordon Brown*, which urges on the UK an immediate referendum on the single currency.

It is by Andrew Duff, director of the Federal Trust, a think-tank, and a prospective Lib-Dem MEP. He is encouraged by overnight events at the Commission, which he says are a triumph for European democracy.

OK, so we call a referendum now. What are the chances of a vote to join? Zero. Duff cheerfully admits. I see. You want a referendum which you are going to lose. Except that you know you aren't going to get one anyway. No, on second thoughts I don't see.

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Eastward ho

IN 1959 a young Welsh accountant, unable to make headway in class-ridden Britain, headed off for Canada and opportunity. Yesterday Colin Parsons, chairman of Taylor Woodrow, took his final bow in the City.

Parsons came back from Canada seven years ago to sort out the mess at head office. Any differences he might have had with the old country are now forgotten.

Despite having a grown-up family in Canada, Parsons and his wife, Alice, have opted to stay in this country after retirement. "We like the people and the lifestyle, and the winters are much better than Canada," he says.

FRUSTRATED by the lack of interest in smaller companies, Brian Winterford of Winterford Securities decided to test the waters at last week's PLC Awards. There were, ostensibly, 1,500 people at the awards dinner with an interest in the subject, so he inserted an advert in the programme.

"Now, does anyone read this, I wonder," it said. "Let's find out." And readers were encouraged to provide their views on how the market in smaller companies could be revived.

"They paid a lot of money to go to the awards," says Winterford. "But I haven't had one reply."

Blown away

A CHALLENGE to Amazon.com, the online bookshop with the ballooning share price that has yet to make a profit. The 1999 Hot-Air Challenge is organised by Global Investor Bookshop, which markets financial books on the Internet. Entrants are invited to forecast the Amazon share price at the end of next month. First prize is a balloon flight with champagne breakfast.

Runners-up will receive copies of *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* by Charles Mackay, the definitive work on money manias from tulips and the South Sea Bubble onwards.

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Terminal 5 decision vital

From the President and members of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Sir, It is with relief that business can finally welcome the end of the Terminal 5 public inquiry — the UK's longest ever. While it is, of course, right that each side must have its views fully aired, we cannot afford to delay a decision for much longer. We therefore urge the inspector to do all that he can to deliver his report swiftly.

The Terminal 5 decision ultimately affects Britain's global competitiveness and the benefits of a positive decision would be felt by businesses throughout the whole of the UK. Regional airports rely heavily on their links to Heathrow, which, as Europe's premier airport, can offer the huge range and frequency of flights and destinations that

BUSINESS LETTERS

are so important to business. Furthermore, Heathrow generates £3 billion a year in wages, supports 200,000 jobs across the country and is worth nearly £5 billion each year to UK tourist revenues alone.

Other airports, such as Amsterdam Schiphol and Paris Charles de Gaulle, are being actively developed with the specific objective of taking business from Heathrow. If Britain is not to lose out to European competitors, a decision to build Terminal 5 must be made soon.

Yours faithfully, COLIN PARSONS, President, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ADAIR TURNER, Director General, CBI, BILL MORRIS, Secretary General, TGWU, PETER GEORGE, Chairman, Hilton International, JOSEPH P. MACHALE, Chief

Executive, JP Morgan Securities, GERALD CORBETT, Chief Executive, Railtrack, JIM BUCKLEY, Chief Executive, The Baltic Exchange, 33 Queen Street, London, EC4R 1AP.

From Mr Dermot Cox and Mr Nic Ferriday Sir, On Wednesday the Terminal 5 public inquiry comes to an end after nearly four years. The length of the inquiry is partly a reflection of the determination of ordinary people across London and the Thames Valley and their democratic representatives to ensure that the proposed massive expansion of Heathrow shall be rejected.

We are very optimistic that the inspector will reach this conclusion when he finishes his report in two years' time. However, there is considerable anxiety among local people

that the Government may succumb to lobbying pressure from the air transport industry to overturn an inspector's recommendation to refuse permission for Terminal 5.

We are calling on John Prescott, Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, to make a commitment now that the Government will implement the recommendations of the inquiry.

While Mr Prescott has formal discretion over the ultimate decision, he cannot understand the issues in the same depth as the inspector and will, therefore, be in no position to disregard the final judgement.

Yours faithfully, DERMOT COX, Chairman, Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise, PO Box 339, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3RB.

NIC FERRIDAY, Spokesman, Friends of the Earth.

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Overseas success to fuel Wolseley acquisition spree

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

WOLSELEY, the builder's merchant, is to continue its acquisition spree during the second half of the year after a buoyant US market raised first-half profits above market forecasts.

The company said that it expects the US market to remain strong, with British and French markets likely to improve. By contrast, markets were likely to remain difficult for the manufacturing division. However, the company said that overall it expects a "satisfactory" outcome for the full year.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to January 31, 1999, rose 14.2 per cent to £142.5 million (£124.8 million), 5 per cent above top-end City forecasts of £136 million.

Steve Webster, the finance director, said the results were a result of strong sales and profits in the US, which

accounts for more than half of sales, as well as a strong European performance.

"The US remains very positive. It is a strong market and there are no signs of it softening - all the recent indications on housing starts and building permits are extremely encouraging," he said.

Shares in Wolseley, which last week jumped 78p on the back of data reinforcing strong housing growth in the US and encouraging results from rival building merchant Travis Perkins, rose a further 74p yesterday to 478 1/4p. In September the shares hit a low of 276p following a steady decline from 556p before it disappointed the markets with last year's first-half results.

So far this year Wolseley has spent a record £211 million on acquisitions, including Hall & Co in Britain,

Porcher Distribution in France and four US distribution businesses for about \$68 million (£42.5 million). Mr Webster said that the company is aiming to maintain its spending rate "ad infinitum", provided it is presented with sufficient opportunities.

"We have plenty of balance-sheet capacity to take more debt," he said. Over the past 12 months net borrowing has jumped to £219.4 million from £38.1 million, with gearing rising to 21.3 per cent (4 per cent).

Sales during the first half rose 12 per cent to £2.6 billion (£2.3 billion). Earnings per share were 15.06p (15.12p), with an interim dividend of 3.75p (3.5p).

Wolseley is a constituent of the FTSE 100. For more information, visit www.wolseley.co.uk.

Homes key for Taylor Woodrow

By ROBERT LEA

THE new chief executive of Taylor Woodrow emphasised the group's conversion into a focused Anglo-US housebuilder when he indicated yesterday that large international construction projects are becoming too risky.

Keith Egerton said: "We are clearly an international housing and property group supported by construction and trading businesses. We are more comfortable with the risk in housing and property."

Mr Egerton said that turnover from the construction arm, which now accounts for just 6 per cent of profits, will decline. The new focus could also see the sale of its merchanting business, Greenham Trading, possibly for as much as £100 million.

The group yesterday revealed pre-tax profits for 1998 leaping 22 per cent to £100.3 million on the back of a 73 per cent profit rise from its booming housing operations in the US to £26 million. In the UK, Taywood Homes last year lifted operating margins to 10 per cent from 8.1 per cent. The company is paying a final dividend of 3.6p, making 5.1p for the year, up 13 per cent.



Peter Kindersley says now is an ideal time to expand curriculum-based educational material

Education division for DK

DORLING KINDERSLEY, the multimedia publisher, is to launch a new education division and turn its website into a virtual bookshop (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Peter Kindersley, the executive chairman, unveiled the initiative yesterday as the company announced a 16.3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4.7 million on turnover down

4.2 per cent to £87.4 million in the six months to December 31. The interim dividend is unchanged at 1.5p.

Parents' fears about "a failed education system" provided the ideal environment for DK to expand curriculum-based educational material, Mr Kindersley said. The new division will bring together both electronic and paper-based

publishing and develop the concept of computer tutors.

DK is also about to relaunch its website to sell direct to customers via the Internet. The site will provide the electronic equivalent of taking a book off the shelf to browse the contents, and "virtual assistants" will know about a customer's previous purchases to make buying suggestions.

Doulton investors to decide

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHAREHOLDERS and directors of Royal Doulton, the troubled china group, are to decide whether a new chief executive is to be appointed following the withdrawal from the job of Patrick Wenger, who was involved in a serious accident at the end of last year.

The company is currently being run by Hamish Grossart, the company doctor who was brought in as chairman and asked to turn the business round. He oversaw the decision last year to make more than 1,200 staff redundant.

He revealed yesterday that the group's restructuring had left it with a pre-tax loss of £42.6 million for calendar 1998, from a profit of £6.2 million a year earlier. The loss per share was 78.97p (6.92p earnings). There is no final dividend.

Mr Grossart said he will consult shareholders and directors over the next few weeks and, if asked, would run the company for the next 12 to 18 months.



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Morgan Crucible in disposal to US

MORGAN CRUCIBLE, the diversified industrial company, expects to raise £136.8 million from the sale of its maintenance, repair and overhaul business to America's Illinois Tool Works, announced yesterday. The company also said it would seek authority to buy back up to 14.99 per cent of its shares.

Morgan Crucible shares rose 124p to 259p, helped by the company's statement that its 1998 profits would be towards the higher end of the range indicated in January's profits warning. Shareholders were told that profits before tax and exceptional items would be between 15 per cent and 20 per cent below those of the previous year. However, the company cautioned that proceeds from the sale of assets would not be sufficient to cover goodwill previously written off, and that the results would show an exceptional charge of £57 million as a result.

Britax ahead 15%

BRITAX INTERNATIONAL, the automotive engineering and aircraft interiors company, lifted underlying pre-tax profits 15.2 per cent to £52.3 million in 1998. Adjusted earnings per share rose 15.3 per cent to 10.25p. Britax also raised £48.4 million after tax from the disposal of its two leasing businesses. The total dividend rises 7.5 per cent to 4.19p, with a second interim dividend of 3.278p. Britax said it had identified a number of targeted bolt-on acquisitions that could be funded through strong cash generation.

Brammer blow

PROFITS at Brammer, the industrial services group, fell to £23.9 million before tax from £30.5 million in 1998. This reflected a disappointing performance in the UK, where business was adversely affected by the impact of the strong pound on exporting and manufacturing companies that make use of Brammer's services. Earnings per share fell to 35.2p from 45.8p. However, the total dividend rises to 17.8p from 17.2p, with a final 11.8p. Brammer said the outlook was still uncertain for UK businesses although there were signs that the rate of decline may be easing.

Headlam's Eclipse bid

HEADLAM GROUP, the floorcoverings and fabrics distributor, has launched a recommended £52.4 million takeover bid for Eclipse Blinds. The offer, which has received acceptances in respect of 29 per cent of Eclipse, is of 20 new Headlam shares for 61 Eclipse shares, valuing each Eclipse share at 113.6p, against Monday's closing price of 97 1/4p. Headlam also reported a rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to £22.9 million from £18.1 million. Eclipse reported annual pre-tax profits little changed at £6.52 million, compared with £6.3 million in 1997.

Slow start for Finlay

JAMES FINLAY, the plantations and speciality teas company, said it had made a disappointing start to 1999, with relatively weak tea prices. However, dry weather in Kenya, North India and Bangladesh suggested that prices would improve this year as a result of a reduction in crops. The company was reporting a rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to £16.2 million from £13.9 million, with a rise in earnings per share to 10.8p from 10.2p. The total dividend is increased to 5p from 4.15p, with a second interim dividend of 3p.

Cortecs £1m charge

CORTECS, the troubled biotechnology company whose chairman is Lord Patten, will take a second-half charge of £1 million to cover the cost of streamlining its activities after the disclosure last December that two of its three lead drugs programmes had failed to make adequate progress. Yesterday the company reported an increase in first-half losses to £11.5 million from £9.1 million. The loss per share was 7.2p, compared with a 5.9p loss last time. The shares, which peaked at 418p in 1996, traded at 24p yesterday.

Prestbury in the black

PRESTBURY GROUP, the property investment company where Nick Leslau is chairman and chief executive, returned to profit in 1998, earning £3.7 million before tax compared with a loss of £800,000 in 1997. Earnings were 0.08p a share, against a 0.3p loss in the previous year. There is again no dividend but the company has promised a "modest" dividend for 1999. Net asset value was 2.75p a share at the year end, up from 1.38p at the end of 1997. Yesterday the shares, which traded on the Alternative Investment Market, were unchanged at 34p.

Secure Trust up 7%

SECURE TRUST, the private banking group, lifted pre-tax profits 7 per cent to £11.4 million in 1998, with a 5 per cent rise in earnings to 52.3p a share. The total dividend rises 57 per cent to 36p a share, with a 10p special dividend paid in November, and a final dividend of 18p. The shares rose 17 1/2p to 580p yesterday. The company's two divisions comprise Arbutnot Latham, the private and merchant bank, and Secure Trust Bank, a provider of household cash management services.

مكتبة من الكتب

UNIT TRUST PRICES 31

[illegible]

Equities shed early gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

BANKS

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

BUILDING MATERIALS

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

CHEMICALS

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

CONSTRUCTION

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

DISTRIBUTORS

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

ELECTRICITY

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

ENGINEERING

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

INSURANCE

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

LEISURE & HOTELS

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

HEALTHCARE

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

OIL & GAS

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

OTHER FINANCIAL

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

RETAILERS, FOOD

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

WATER

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

SUPPORT SERVICES

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

LONGS (over 15 years)

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

UNDATED

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

INDEX-Linked on projected inflation of

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00



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1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

PHARMACEUTICALS

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

PRINTING & PAPER

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

PROPERTY

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

TRANSPORT

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

WATER

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

SUPPORT SERVICES

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1999/00	10.00	9.50	1000000	10.00	10.00	10.00

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DUBLIN



GALLERIES

It's a nuclear missile site, but is it art?

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THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC

Premiere: 70th birthday boy at the Barbican

PAGE 36



What does it take to get children into the theatre? Daniel Rosenthal on gloomy new research

Give us Ross and Roald

When it is published tomorrow, new research into what 10 to 14-year-olds think about live drama will be eagerly scrutinised by all those theatre managers and artistic directors who talk of the pressing need to build "the audience of tomorrow". They are in for a sobering read.

Asked to name a leisure activity they pursue at weekends or during school holidays, every child in the survey mentioned cinema, but fewer than one in a hundred mentioned theatre. The survey, by the market research company Kids Connection, found that most children find theatres "stuffy and unfriendly", and resent having to sit in "uncomfortable seats far from the stage". They believe tickets are overpriced, and should cost the same as a seat at their local Odeon. The refreshment on offer is another turn-off, and one that managers should not underestimate: in an earlier survey for UCI Cinemas, Kids Connection discovered that

more than a third of under-16s went to the movies for popcorn, ice-cream and soft drinks first, and the film second.

At least these perceived deficiencies are essentially cosmetic and, particularly where food and seat prices are concerned, treatable. For example, Sheffield Theatres' current "How Much?" initiative (underwritten by the Arts Council's New Audiences scheme) has been offering tickets to 16-24s for £3.50, prompting 12,000 young people to visit the Lyceum, Crucible and Studio theatres in the last quarter of 1998.

More disheartening — because they are much harder to

counter — are the children's overwhelmingly negative opinions of what they have seen on stage, and of the fundamental nature of theatre as an art form. With their experience confined almost exclusively to pantomimes and touring West End musicals, the majority of children feel disappointed on three counts: there is a dearth of age-appropriate material, no peer-group kudos in attending, and they simply do not believe the on-stage action. Shows were either "babyish" or "too serious", with nothing to say about the way these children live their lives.

"These children feel that tele-

vision gives them real life, and cinema gives them fantasy, but they find it very difficult to suspend disbelief in the theatre," says Pevryll Murray, the managing director of Kids Connection. "A lot of them find scene changes obtrusive, and they couldn't get their minds around the fact that characters can't actually go outside on stage." Only a handful of those questioned had ever been carried away by the immediacy of live drama.

Had the researchers gone to regions with minimal local live provision, and chosen children from families unable to afford even an occasional visit, their findings might seem unrepresentative. Yet Kids Connection interviewed 164 children from middle and working-class families at two state schools with what Murray calls "theatre-going reputations", one in Birmingham and one in Norwich — both cities which offer a good range of drama. "I really did think we'd get more positive responses," says Murray.

She will present the survey in London tomorrow at "Older Younger", a one-day seminar on the future of theatre for young people and the family. The research was funded by the Arts Council and Sainsbury's, and Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover will use the seminar to launch an initiative for the commissioning and professional production of new work for young people.

Discussion panels at the event will feature directors with impressive track records in the youth market, including John Retallack, whose exhilarating stage adaptation of *Junk*, Melvin Burgess's contro-

versial novel about teenage heroin addicts, won last year's Barclays Theatre Award for best young people's show and is currently on its second tour.

The survey, suggests Retallack, is a wake-up call for the industry. "At the moment, it's as though children this age are a huge 'disabled' group who from time to time we have to acknowledge," he says. "They lack money, so if you cater just for them you will struggle economically. They lack years, so you cannot choose to put on the kind of adult work that most directors want to stage."

"Theatre companies who work exclusively for young people make the best of their resources, but this research tells me that the real initiative has to come from the big national and regional venues. They have to take a much longer-term approach."

So what putative productions might persuade children to spend their pocket money on theatre rather than movies or video games? The survey found that what this crowd really, really wants is soap stars and adaptations of books by authors like Terry Pratchett, Judy Blume, Robert Swindells and Roald Dahl. Based on the survey, any producer in search of the ultimate teen hit should opt for *East-Enders* Ross Kemp in anything by Dahl or, better still, *South Park* — *The Stage Show*. "A new play, by an author they didn't know, would have to be phenomenally good for them to be interested," says Murray.

Retallack disagrees. "I know of at least five really terrific, unproduced new plays for this age group circulating at the moment, but 90 per cent of theatres won't touch them because they don't fit into a recognised category. If they were aggressively marketed they could succeed. Young people think they know what they want — but you can surprise them."

Junk is on tour in England and Scotland until June 12 (for details call 01865 384240)



A scene from *Junk*, adapted by John Retallack, who dubs the new survey a "wake-up call"

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament CHARLOTTE BROOM

Profession: Principal dancer with Northern Ballet Theatre.
Age: 27.

What is her style? The company's artistic director, Christopher Gable, considered her to have a remarkable ability to identify with roles. "I particularly enjoy dramatic parts as opposed to just technical ones," she says. "I feel I can get much deeper in a performance with a character." This makes her especially suited to NBT's theatrical style.

What's new? From tonight she can be seen at Sadler's Wells as Lucy in the Christopher Gable-Michael Pink *Dracula*. And she takes the ti-

le role in NBT's new modern-dress *Carmen*, premiered in Leeds last month and now in the touring repertoire.

How did she prepare for *Carmen*? She read Prosper Mérimée's novella and has seen several productions of the opera. "But ultimately it was up to me to find my own characterisation of *Carmen*, not copy someone else's." So who is her *Carmen*? "She is someone who doesn't think of the consequence of her actions. She just thinks of the moment."

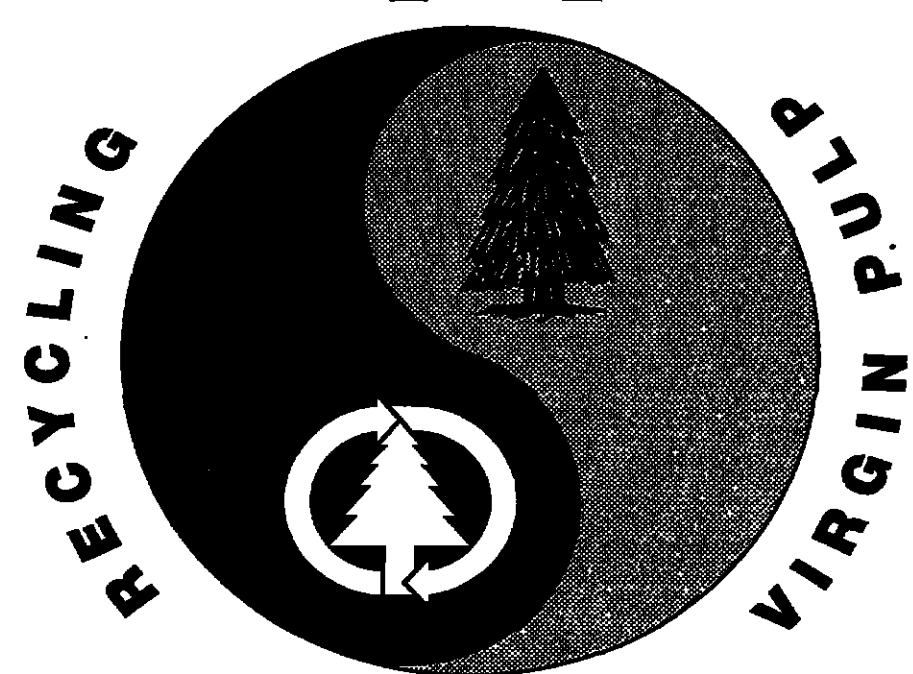
How does she cope with all that touring? It feels like a doddle after her first job. "I joined a small compa-



NADINE MEISNER

● Daniel Hope's record label (Great British Hopes, last week) is Nimbus, not Chandos

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Epitaph for a wicked world

Trevor Nunn's production of *Troilus and Cressida* displays his usual respect for Shakespeare's text, up to but excluding the ending. After the Greeks in their plumed helmets have battled with the Trojans in their oriental robes, he gives us a last, spurious glimpse of Cressida. She stands alone onstage, rejected by a contemptuous Troilus and even by her uncle Pandarus, a pathetic, broken sex object, lipstick smeared over her lower face. And gunfire splutters offstage, by way of suggesting that the play is for all seasons, not least our own.

And so it is. *Troilus* marks the debut of the sub-company that Nunn has formed at the National, and it will, I'm sure, do stronger work when its members know each other better. But you cannot leave even an unevenly acted production without seeing why the play has been revived twice by the RSC in the past three years, is now in the Olivier rep, and may yet get yet another showing in the West End this autumn. Is there a piece that better embodies the disillusioned soul of the departing century? "Nothing but wars and lechery," repeats the arch-cynic Thersites, and, yes, that is what our era's dictators and scientists have left us feeling about honour, chivalry and love.

Does Nunn mean to convey some specific anxiety by setting white Greeks against Trojans who, with the illogical exception of David Bamber's



Pandarus, are all black? If so, that seems more dubious, for Shakespeare makes it clear (witness Hector's refusal to fight with his cousin Ajax) that both sides belong to one big, bawling family. Moreover, isn't it odd that a theatre

which has often and effectively asked us to blind our imaginations to its actors' colour should suddenly expect us to make a point of noticing it?

That's not to say there are no differences between Shakespeare's Trojans and his Greeks. As Nunn suggests with *Arabian Nights* costumes, exotic cushions and flaming tripods, the home side is the more romantic. The grimy-faced visitors in their battered leather greatcoats are

the more practical and realistic. It is not surprising that Cressida betrays Troilus with Greek Diomed, or that Achilles murders Hector, in this production in a brutally opportunistic way. That's how a wicked world wags.

Though the battle scenes are almost too carefully drilled, Nunn achieves some fine visual effects on the gravel circle, backed by a timber wall, that serves for a set. But I have seen nearly every role better played. The main exception is Roger Allam's Ulysses, who is incisive, sly, articulate and so embittered by the war that the very word "Troy" is a furious sneer. Denis Quilley gives emotional reality to Nestor, usually a senile doddler; Bamber's Pandarus minces and winces to splendidly voyeuristic effect; and Peter de Jersey makes a passionate Troilus.

But others struggle, among them Jasper Britton's Thersites, whose facial sores are angrier than his innards; Dholi Oparel, whose Hector seems oddly precious; and Sophie Okonedo, who works too hard to motivate Cressida. I liked the idea of a loose-limbed extrovert who ventures way out of her emotional depth, and morally destroys herself in order physically to survive; but there is too much signalling of feeling, too much verbal strain, too many words that come in italics or, I fear, capitals.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Shakespeare under strain: Jasper Britton (top), Peter de Jersey, Sophie Okonedo and David Bamber at the NT

Loyalist's loyalty ends at home

Trust Ambassadors

very stillness signals danger and his savage outbursts of anger are roared from a great gape of a mouth.

His 15-year-old son is a disappointment on several grounds, shy and prone to headaches, but George is not beyond extending a fond tolerance to the lad's awkward endeavours to head for manhood. The scene in the club where George and his sidekick Arty (Colum Conway) edu-

cate the boy in social skills provides a comic interlude in the gathering menace.

Conflicts develop with intermediaries in the big deal but even more crucially between George and his wife, Margaret; and although the significance of their dispute is not immediately clear, and at times hard to follow, what Mitchell achieves is the creation of a woman steadily becoming certain that defence of her son is vastly more important to her than any other loyalty. Laine Megaw's subtle performance takes us from her loyalist loyalty — where she sparks our initial surprise at her practised handling of a suspect — to the climactic catastrophe.

Megaw's tight, half-smiling features can break into a wrath as unnerving as her man's, and tighten again into a bridge-burning resolve after showing us, through tone of voice and twist of shoulders, how the casebook of her life has altered.

Powerful direction by Mick Gordon and not an orange sash in view.

JEREMY KINGSTON

الحكمان النحل

Funny peculiar, funny ha ha

VISUAL ART: As a new book sheds light on Gilbert and George, Rachel Campbell-Johnston pays them a call

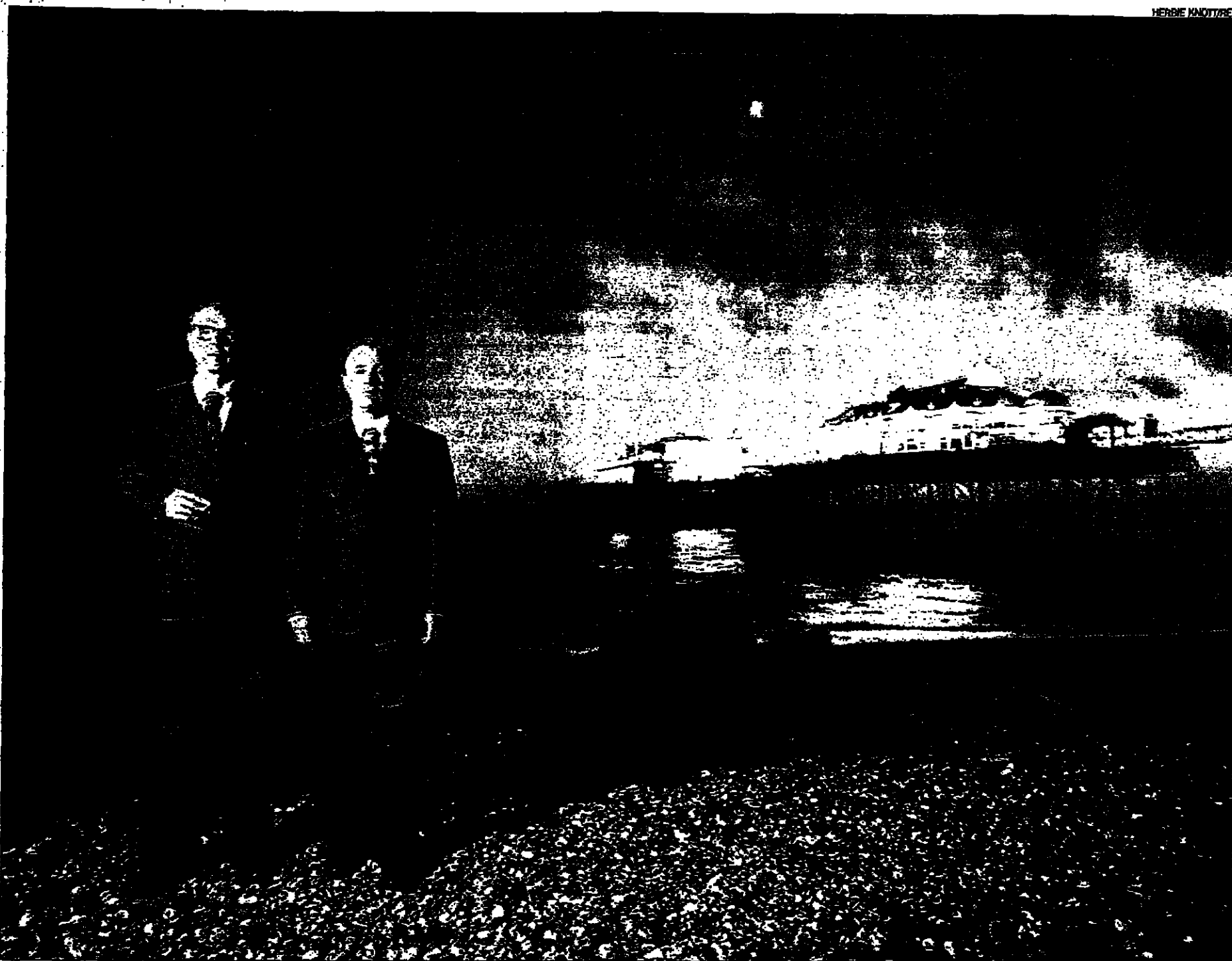
Ring on the doorbell and listen for the footsteps — two sets measuring the boards. Then the door swings open on to London's living artworks, on to two tweed suits and two extended hands and four burnished brogues planted evenly on the floor. Clearly I am looking at one of Gilbert and George's most polished pieces: their "Interview sculpture".

What is it about matching people that unnerves? I flutter nervously under the imperceptible double gaze. "Coffee?" suggests George. "Sugar?" asks George. Gilbert pours milk.

Their manners are formidable. Inside the polished passageways of a Dickensian home, done out in high Victorian style with Puginesque furnishings and leather-bound books, there are no traces of the artists' own works — nothing of the disturbing, defecatory subject-matter that has so shocked or outraged or delighted the critics. But now a biographical portrait completed just before his death last year by the writer Daniel Farsen, their longstanding fan and drinking companion, has cast some light on the enigmatic artists.

The long, chill studio space into which I am led is perfectly bare. "We are very organised," George informs me. "Very organised indeed." The contrast is startling between the men standing stiff-spined before me — the taller George, bespectacled and well spoken, with a silver pen in the top pocket of his immaculately tailored suit; the shorter Gilbert, with a soulful brown gaze, an Italian accent and a comb in the top pocket of his immaculately tailored suit — and the works which the two have done together since they first met at St Martin's art school some 30 years ago. What could pieces with titles like *Sperm Eaters* or *Spit on Shit* have to do with this fastidious duo?

The artists gleefully agree. "We had a friend who was poorly in hospital," Gilbert tells me. "We sent him a card. One of our own: *Spunk and Tears*. He put it on his bedside table and the nurses loved it. And when we went to visit our friend they were all very charming." But after we had left, George goes on, "they said they couldn't believe that we were the artists of the card. 'Not those respectable men!' they cried."



The end of the pier show: George and Gilbert ("our motto is that nothing matters") take a break from the serious business of producing art to sniff the sea air in Brighton

The respectable pair collapse into chiming laughter.

The laughter connects the artists to their work. I had assumed they would be grave, as unsmiling as their portraits. I was wrong. In their studio Gilbert and George pull out plans of their new work. They have spent the last few months riffling through a copy of the London A-Z, picking out all the places with unfortunate names: Spankers Hill Wood, Spert Street, Swallow Street, Organ Lane. They laugh uncontrollably at

the double entendres. Excitedly they rifle through contact prints of urine photographed under a microscope. "Piss 1-100" the box is labelled. "Aren't they beautiful?" Gilbert cries, admiring crystalline patterns. "Our paintings make people look at piss for the first time and see that it is beautiful," explains Gilbert. "Beauty has an amazing power," George declares.

They show me pictures of themselves, naked, or with trousers round their ankles, or bending over,

buttocks played. "Of course we feel vulnerable when we hang them in a gallery," says George. "But people find their own vulnerability in our art as well. Our art is about emotion. We are creating the visual language of suffering, or awkwardness, or ecstasy. And we are more frank about our art than any other artist." And yet if, as they profess, their art is their life, they are contradicting themselves. They cover their privacy. No one is ever allowed into their bedroom. Gilbert's former

marriage is airbrushed out of their biography. "We aren't prepared to provide a list of all the people we have ever shagged. We don't think that's helpful," George closes the conversation firmly.

But perhaps this hiatus is the most interesting aspect of their art, articulating the paradoxical and painful dissonance of the human state, as at one moment we put on our public face, the next crouch trouserless on a lavatory pan.

And perhaps this is the "consolation" which Gilbert and George offer those who go to see their art: that the higher up the tree of life we climb, the better the gaping masses below can see our bottoms. Nothing can matter too much when you remember that.

"No. Nothing matters. Our motto is that nothing matters," Gilbert says. "Nothing matters, nothing matters," Gilbert agrees.

● Gilbert and George: A Portrait by Daniel Farsen is published by HarperCollins this week, price £19.99

AROUND THE GALLERIES

SOME artists almost choose to make themselves outsiders. When Peter Samuelson was rediscovered he was living in deepest Oxfordshire, supporting himself by restoring oriental carpets and lending a hand on a nearby farm. Bizarre, one might think, for an artist of such evident talent and approachability.

After training in Paris and living during the war years in The Netherlands, he returned to England and disappeared from the art world, running a lodging house in Earls Court instead. But he always painted and drew: a lot of handsome young men drifted in and out of his lodging house, and he developed his own meticulously realistic style of portraiture.

Finally he stopped painting altogether, and took it up again only with the stimulus of outside interest in his art, when he was in his early seventies. This no doubt explains why this first cull from the attic full of paintings he left at his death makes its appearance in the Cotswolds, where he spent his last years. The style (not to mention the subject-matter) is no doubt easier to appreciate now, post-Hockney, than it would have been in the Fifties, in particular Samuelson's exquisite draughtsmanship and his subtle and delicate colouring.

Brian Sinfield Gallery, 150 High St, Burford, Oxfordshire OX193 8Z466, daily 10am-5.30pm, until March 27

□ Liam Hanley is by no means an outsider, but he seems to keep himself sedulously upon the fringes, as though his art is somehow too private to be launched on the great indiscriminate merry-go-round of the West End art world — it has an air of keeping its secrets. Hanley paints with single-minded dedication, his work mostly on that elusive borderline between representation and abstraction.

A few years ago he became obsessed with the patterns made by ploughed fields: in this new show his focus seems to have shifted to the sea coast. Most of these small pictures find rough squares and cubes even in the sea itself, though they avoid excessive rigidity through the occasional intervention of curling winds and waves. The colouring this time is also more vibrant.

Beardsmore Gallery, 22-24 Prince of Wales Road, NW5 0PL-485 0923, Tues-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat noon-6pm, until March 31

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Richard Cork on an eerie video installation about the Greenham missile base

Once a well-publicised target for women campaigning against the nightmare of nuclear annihilation, Greenham Common has now lapsed into disuse. The US military's English base served as an arsenal for cruise missiles, and Greenham became a symbol of apocalyptic menace, its placid rural setting only throwing into relief the horrifying prospect of a planet laid waste by irreversible conflagration.

Jane and Louise Wilson are young enough never to have witnessed Greenham's former notoriety. But they insist, in their haunting exhibition at the Lisson Gallery, on bringing the dormant base back to an eerie semblance of life. By calling their video projection *Gamma* the Wilsons imply that Greenham's radioactive past is not forgotten. And in order to show how disquieting the abandoned buildings remain, the two artists take us on a journey to the heart of places where missiles used to lie in permanent expectation.

Even as we enter the gallery, amplified sounds of rising and descending lifts, the ominous hum emitted by machines and the snapping-shut of mighty metal doors assail our ears. Once inside, we find large screens positioned on opposite walls. Anyone wanting a comprehensive viewing is obliged to stand between them, and turn continually from one set of images to the other. Even here, though, it is impossible to catch everything.

The perpetual swivelling makes us disorientated and incapable of absorbing all the sensations competing for our attention. The sense of bewilderment generated is surely

You thought the Cold War was finished?

akin to the Wilsons' own reaction when they penetrated the arsenal for the first time.

They must have felt that only fragments of Greenham's former reality lingered there. In this respect they operate like detectives struggling to assess evidence at a locale long since abandoned. Their cameras change speed in response to the scenes in front of the lens. When scrutinising an enormous hangar-like structure, they slow down. This desolate space seems frozen in a state of suspense. Although its personnel and equipment have long departed, the suggestion that they may return hangs in the air. The Wilsons' willingness to remain there appears motivated by the suspicion that something may happen.

But before long the camera starts to travel briskly down narrow concrete passageways, claustrophobic and redolent of secrecy. No sooner have we become accustomed to a fast pace than it slows once again, gingerly moving towards a door into a bare room.

Two blue plastic chairs sit there, as if recently vacated. The sound of ticking adds to the unease, a mood heightened when we find ourselves confronted by a close-up of an official form headed "Soviet Inspection". The words may well refer to the Greenham base's current status, defunct and yet subject to an INF treaty that permits scrutiny by Russian military at any time until 2001. No sign of such a visit can be detected in *Gamma*.

But sometimes the Wilsons compound the mystery by re-

inserting an unexplained human presence. At one point, after travelling very fast over arrows set into the floor, the camera settles on a flashing control panel. An instruction issues an urgent warning: "Do Not Touch Unless Directed By The Launch Centre." But an enigmatic finger seems to flout the order by pressing a button, and soon stockinged legs strut across a mirrored floor whose reflections add to the perceptual confusion.

More figures appear out-



Shadows of doom: *Mirrored Figure* from *Gamma* by Jane and Louise Wilson

side, hooded this time and moving along the top of grimy walls at night. They look like soldiers on patrol, but we are not allowed to look at them properly before *Gamma* sets off on another expedition. We descend to the bowels of the building and a space lined with containers. The strangest sector of the base is located down here, in a chamber where long plastic strips dangle from the ceiling. They partially hide a cartoon-style image of a snarling, running dog newly freed from a broken neck-chain. This graffiti-like hound takes on a powerful force. It resembles the canine equivalent of a cruise missile, released from its moorings in order to pulverise the enemy.

By focusing on the quiescent objects still lurking in the Greenham gloom, the Wilsons succeed in reactivating its past. They scrutinise the Decontamination Chamber, and track past a sequence of directional arrows that might have strayed from a Francis Bacon painting. Indeed, many of the bleak spaces investigated by *Gamma*'s camera are reminiscent of the rooms where Bacon's figures assert their convulsive presence. The Wilsons, who admire his work, must realise that it cannot be disentangled from the existential anxiety of the Cold War era.

Nor can Greenham, despite the waning of hostility between the superpowers. Wherever we are taken in the building, its echoing emptiness fails to offer reassurance. However irrefutable the closure of the base may be, its redundant interior still seems freighted with worrying memories. The dangers and fears that brought this arsenal into existence will never entirely go away. They remain in an arrested state, just as the Wilsons themselves appeared in an earlier video sitting side by side in a hypnotic trance.

But *Gamma*'s mood is markedly different from the hypnotic video. The latter work was shown at the Lisson a few years ago, when an altar-like flight of steps leading to the screen enhanced its serenity. Now, however, the space is occupied by a disturbing presence. Moving out of *Gamma*, we walk up identical steps to a metal doorway. The door is open, and bears an inscription: "Two Man Policy No Lane Zone."

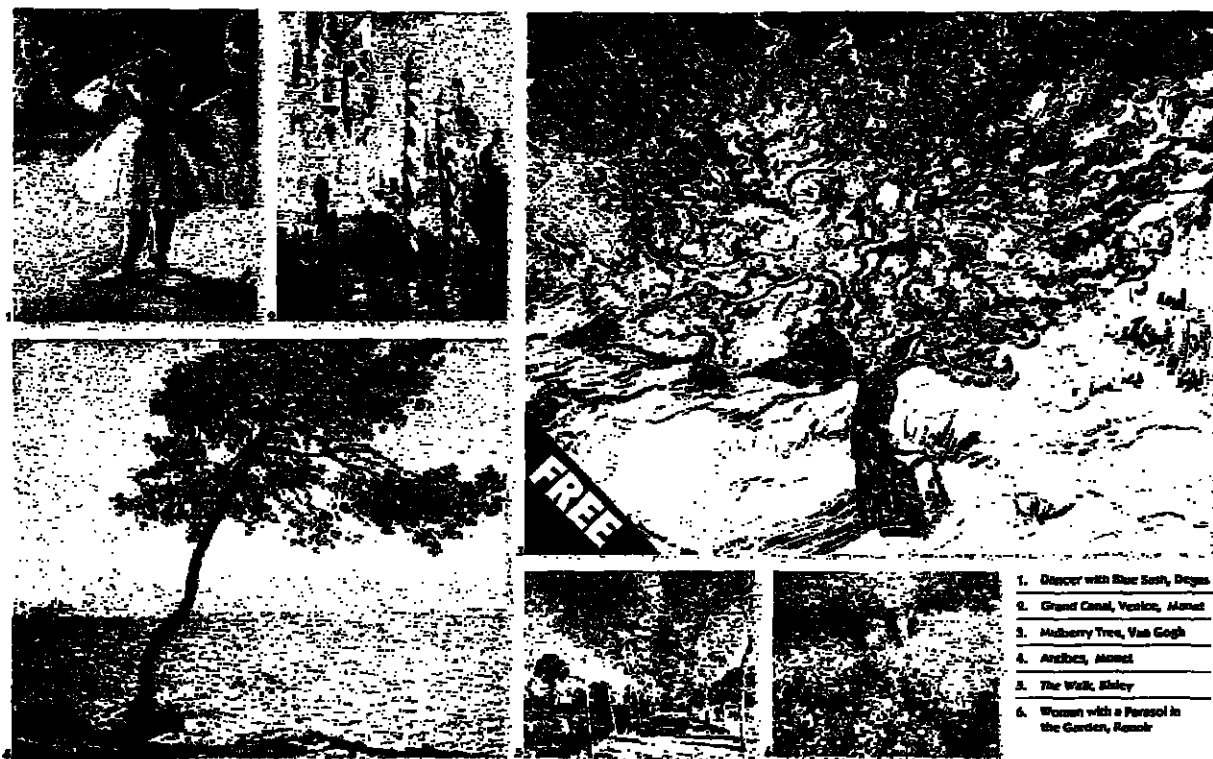
Nothing prevents us from stepping through to the darkness beyond, a space as empty and enigmatic as the rooms in the arsenal. Standing there, we hear sounds from the *Gamma* video punctuating the silence. Another open doorway, dramatically spotlighted, stands ahead, offering a chance to leave. But the exit sign glowing above it conveys no sense of welcome escape. After everything the Wilsons have done in their troubling show, the word reads instead like a final warning that the post-Greenham world will never be truly free from the threat of obliteration.

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RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves

LONDON

DRACULA: Northern Ballet Theatre brings Christopher Marlowe's classic version of Bram Stoker's chiller to London for a first showing. Denis Mackinnon directs the role of the toothy count to Philip Peckham's powerful score. Sadler's Wells (0171-715 6000). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. £5

FORBIDDEN BROADWAY: A second try by New York's long-running musical revue (previously played mostly) to adapt for London audiences. Jenny Street Theatre (0171-257 2070). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. £5

LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT: A future transformed by the vast city of Heathrow four ordinary people try to escape. Dominic Hill directs a new play by David Cotes. Orange Tree (0181-840 3833). Previews from tonight, 7.45pm. £5

ELSEWHERE
BIRMINGHAM: Trading these days under his surname only, the virtuoso violinist Kennedy plays with the CBSO in Birmingham.



Kennedy plays with the CBSO in Birmingham

used in 20-5 movies such as 2001 - a Space Odyssey and Alien. The programme features Johann and Richard Strauss, Brahms and Howard Hanson. With Ian Tracey as organ soloist. Philharmonia Hall (0151-708 3788). Royal Exchange (0115-233 9833). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm. £5

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
 House full, returns only £1. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

ANIMAL CRACKERS: Ben Keston, Joe Alessi and Toby Sedgwick play the three maniacs in a stage version of the Marx Brothers' comic. First seen at Manchester's Royal Exchange. Lyric (0171-494 5045).

TRUST: Patrick O'Keefe plays a Belfast hit man whose skills disastrously fail his own family. Met Gordon directs new Gary Mitchell drama. Ambassadors (0171-565 5000).

BLUE HEART: Caryl Churchill's wonderfully inventive pair of plays, revealing family troubles by way of tricks with words and time. Max Stafford-Clark directs for Out of Joint. Pleasance Theatre (0171-608 1000).

SLAVA'S SHOWSHOW: The excellent Russian clown and mime artist Slava Polunin returns, with new material, new clowns as well as his unforgettable little. Ploceity Theatre (0171-398 1734).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

PATCH ADAMS (12): Robin Williams stars in this absurd movie about a doctor who wants to cure the world with laughter. Director Tom Shadyac extracts an obscene amount of sentiment with little anaesthetic.

PLEASANTVILLE (12): Inexpensive spoof of American family values. Great performances from Tobey Maguire, Jeff Daniels, and Reese Witherspoon.

CENTRAL STATION (15): Walter Salles's Brazilian road movie crisscrosses the country between a boy in search of his identity, and a cynical ex-teacher in search of her soul.

SCIZORPUS (15): Steven Soderbergh's experimental satire on corporate anxiety in outer space, with camera angles and dialogue to match.

CURRENT

BELOVED (15): Oprah Winfrey is superbly powerful as a runaway slave haunted by posttraumatic stress.

me, and a dead daughter. Jonathan Demme's overlong film falls, however, to get inside the haunting heart of Toni Morrison's novel.

PRESTIGE (15): Thomas Vinterberg's bleak, black, Danish film features a chessmaster's obsession with a chess piece, and a chessmaster's obsession with a chess piece.

THE 39 STEPS (15): Hitchcock's witty take on Buchan's rapping yarn is full of fabulous set pieces. Robert Donat's Scotland pursued by scamping police and ruthless spies.

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A glittering cast of American soldiers show that the war in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Terrence Malick's artistic masterpiece stars Sean Penn, Jim Caviezel, and Nick Nolte.

YOU'RE GOT MAIL (PG): Bull-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet. Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

Climax soars to a Mutter

CONCERTS: The stars came out to wish André Previn a happy 70th birthday at the Barbican

Two clumps of greenery clung to each side of the Barbican stage, like weeds growing on a garden wall. Not much to look at for André Previn's 70th birthday gala concert. But for this final concert in the London Symphony Orchestra's birthday series the decorations were there where it mattered.

In the music. Not to mention the guests. Previn's party had nothing but the best: Anne-Sophie Mutter and her violin, Kiril Te Kanawa and her larynx. There was also a gleaming new car in the foyer, advertising the evening's sponsors, the Rover Group.

At the end of the evening, the orchestra prematurely struck up *Happy Birthday to You* (the actual date is April 6). This was the worst music of the evening. The best by far was Beethoven's Violin Concerto, resplendent in Mutter's hands. In the 19 years since her teenage recording with Karajan, Mutter has speeded up, knocking a minute off her famously leisurely first movement. The poetry and delicacy have increased too.

During the lull, she made pianissimo sounds tender enough to make the gods weep; and, throughout, her notes sang so beautifully that the conventional display of the concerto's cadenza seemed beside the point. Previn, for his part, kept a firm grip, never letting the chunks of orchestral fire consume the violin in the opening allegro, keeping the languent variations rapt, releasing tension in the finale with a rondo knees-up. This was heavenly music-making.

It was also an impossible act to follow. As Te Kanawa discovered. Her party piece was the final scene from Strauss's *Capriccio*. Mellifluous singing, to be sure, gracefully aristocratic in style. But the tone was a little lacking - if she were par-

quet flooring, you'd want to get out the polish and buff her - and enunciation sometimes lost out to the big Straussian orchestra throbbing behind.

For the concert's final number, the *Rosenkavalier* suite, the orchestra grew bigger still: whooping horns, a plangent celeste, an army of double-basses. As a musical structure, this out-and-pastie assemblage of 1945, possibly the work of the conductor Arthur Rodzinski, totters most ungracefully, one extract piled on to another, with a threadbare little coda tacked on top. But it allowed Previn and the LSO to let rip, and sent the audience waltzing off happily into the Barbican concrete.

GEOFF BROWN



Anne-Sophie Mutter joins André Previn after stealing the show at his birthday party

Homer fires kept burning

Nicholas Maw's *Odyssey* is famous for being the longest unbroken span of music in the orchestral repertoire. But, as Simon Rattle pointed out in a talk introducing his performance of this quixotic 95-minute work, that is also perhaps the least interesting thing about a score that is epic in every sense: although its title has Classical allusions, it evokes rather a long spiritual journey away from 20th-century musical ideologies and towards tonality.

Rattle has championed the work energetically, and with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra on stage he illustrated about the piece, giving the audience clear signposts from the "time chord" that punctuates the sections to the enormous main theme from which so much is developed. But whether *Odyssey* (completed in



Rattle drew a performance of total conviction

1987) really belonged best as part of this *Towards the Millennium* survey of music from the 1980s is another matter: it developed as a tangent, albeit a colossal one, to what was important during the previous decade, and its performance here only underlined the slight British bias of this festival's programming.

Yet *Odyssey* deserves to be heard, and if British musicians do not play it, who will? In spite - or perhaps because - of its roots in the symphonic tradition, it is a work that could only have been written when it was by a British composer, but it is not a symphony: the structure of its four main parts and the logic of it in relation to Bruckner and Si-



Rattle drew a performance of total conviction

belius are but aspects of this very personal piece. It is easy to say that *Odyssey* is personal to the point of self-indulgence, and there are moments - long moments - where the thick scoring and slow pace pall. But it has a pulse of its own, and given the great length (44 bars) of the

main theme it demands space in which to grow. The theme itself, ranging across wide intervals and sounding both passionate and melancholy, is first heard on the cellos before being absorbed into the rich mosaic of the piece.

This was a performance of total conviction, which Rattle built unerringly. The almost shapeless opening, where music rises from the growling depths eventually to attain clarity, unfolded majestically, and the pastoral episodes of Part 2 and meditative beauty of Part 3 made their full impact.

Before the brutal climaxes which signal the Epilogue arrived, the CBSO weaved through the fluttering textures with virtuosic ease, and the final "homecoming" in an undisturbed E flat came as the relief it ought to be.

JOHN ALLISON

CLIVE DAVIS

Warm in Betty's shoes

Betty Carter's residences at Ronnie Scott's became such an institution that her death left an eerie silence. It took only one chorus to appreciate why Nnema Freelon is regarded as a candidate to assume Carter's mantle. While it may not have been always an emotionally compelling performance - the technician sometimes got the better of the poet in her - this was as confident a debut London has seen in a while.

Carter must have grown tired of hearing reviewers compare her singing style to a horn player's. Freelon takes the same instrument-based approach, ornamenting each bar and rearranging the thrust of the lyrics to suit her own purposes. Her warm, rich voice has the suppleness of a Sarah Vaughan. On ballads she stretches vowels in the manner of the best gospel singers.

JAZZ

On occasion, the songs suffered from the bravura treatment. In her passion for improvising, Freelon seems reluctant to let a melody breathe naturally, and she is over-fond of shoe-horning tunes into stream-of-consciousness medleys: *Some Day My Prince Will Come* merged into *Just Friends*, *Nature Boy* and *My Favourite Things*. Audiences have to work hard to keep up.

The comparison with Carter extends, above all, to her choice of musicians. Not only has Freelon arrived with one of Carter's former drummers, the admirably crisp Will Terrill, but she clearly believes in bringing her sidemen right into the foreground. The pianist Takana Miyamoto makes a particularly sensitive accompanist, while Wayne Batchelor's brisk but controlled bass figures gave the quartet all the ballast it required.

Adding a percussionist was a bold move, and Beverley Botford's subtle colours brought an extra dimension to arrangements which were already a cut above the average.

The feminist sentiments of Nina Simone's *Four Women* were an audacious departure, introduced over strident bass and percussion. Freelon's proselytising instincts extend to her somewhat syrupy between-song chat. If she ever gives up the bandstand, she could set up her own talk show.

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Inner cities look East

New housing can reflect the needs of ethnic communities, says Stella Bingham

Projects designed to regenerate inner-city wastelands usually concentrate on housing shortages, family size, density and design. The ethnic origin of those likely to be living in them is rarely taken into account. But two schemes address the needs and aspirations of multicultural urban dwellers.

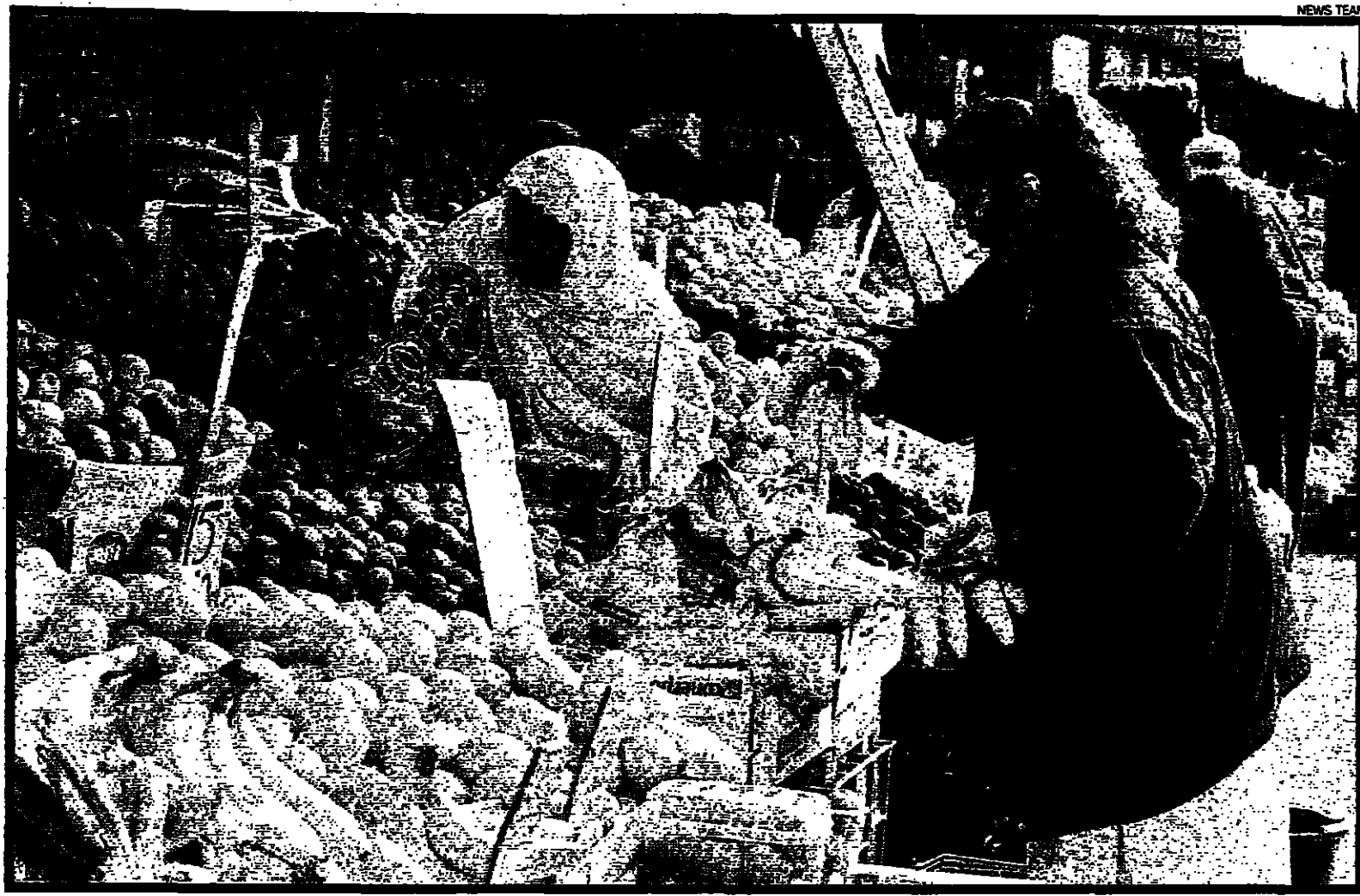
In Birmingham the Saltley and Small Heath Single Regeneration Budget scheme covers a district with a population of 55,000. "The area has always had an itinerant population and now the important group is South Asian. Some areas are 70 per cent South Asian," says Wendy Shillam, a partner with Shillam & Smith, the community architects for the scheme.

"It is essentially a Victorian suburb but the housing is in a very bad state, built on heathland and former brick pits. A lot of the property is owner-occupied but often it is not in good condition because the owners haven't the wherewithal for the upkeep."

Another problem is sheer size. "South Asian families tend to live in large, extended households which the average two-up, two-down cannot accommodate. Often they would buy two and knock them into one, but such homes are very unadaptable. The project aims to improve and provide more housing and regenerate the area. Our aim is to have more community-led strategies," she says.

The first challenge was to find out what residents actually wanted from the scheme. "We linked up with the mobile library to talk to people. And we instituted a public art project, which helped us to communicate with two groups we felt were missing — Asian women and children. We addressed some of the housing issues they wanted, such as the quality of external space and healthier living."

The year-long consultation



A consultation with inner-city residents resulted in a report, spelling out how housing should change to reflect the needs of multicultural communities

resulted in a detailed report about how housing should change to reflect the needs of the population. "Residents wanted flexibility, the ability to put two houses together or split them apart," Ms Shillam says. "Aesthetically, they wanted to get away from the Victorian Imperialist style. And they wanted a low-energy building that considered the ecology."

"Larger and more flexible homes would be more attractive not only to South Asians, but to people with elderly relatives, older children or those starting a business at home."

The first results of the public consultation will be in starting contrast to the traditional red-brick terraces. Some of the 34 flat-roofed, concrete houses will be grouped round a courtyard to reflect the Asian homeland pattern of living. Exteriors will be robust, possibly brightly painted, simple, easy to repair or change and designed to grow old gracefully.

"None of the internal partitions is structural, so you can change and add on as you have the money," she says. "We're building homes 20 per cent bigger for the same money, so they won't have a fully fitted kitchen and all the other things you get in a spec building. You can walk in and live there and add on as you want to and can afford to. There will be no brass doorknobs and microwaves but you will have space."

Shillam & Smith hopes to obtain planning permission soon. "We had to be careful to convince the planners that the houses wouldn't go out of fashion in a very short time. But the construction techniques are tried and tested and we have the support of the community," Ms Shillam says. "A number of developers are already showing interest."

"The housing addresses the specialist issues not only of the South Asians, but also the wider issues of how we want to live. This project helps us to make living in inner cities more acceptable and attractive."

A similar idealism is at the heart of the project which inspires Saif Ahmad, the chief executive of the North London Muslim Housing Association.

The association, which has 400 homes in the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hackney and Waltham Forest, has unveiled a ten-year, £500 million programme to build 10,000 homes in some of London's most deprived districts.

"Rome wasn't built in a day and you have to have the right vision," Mr Ahmad says. "The main point is to regenerate the community, to foster tolerance, understanding, care for each other and to enrich British society with its diverse cultural heritage."

There are about 250,000 Muslims in the four boroughs and Mr Ahmad would like them to be seen as a unifying force. "We are not a fifth column. I would like to create a community for people who live here and love it. Tower Hamlets and Newham are 50 per cent Muslim. Some council estates are 95 per cent Bangladeshi, which creates an insular community. If 50 per cent were local and 50 per cent from various Muslim ethnic groups, that would create a diverse community. People often say integration at what price. We say integration through tolerance," he says.

Raising the money is the first hurdle. "We calculate that there are untapped resources that go East, which can be used to regenerate communities here. In Britain and outside there are individuals eager to see the scheme go through. Most housing schemes are based on private

finance and government grants. We are trying to find the mechanism with which we can tap into government resources for a head start, but it is a new model and we need to talk to a lot of people."

The association plans a first phase of 50 to 100 houses. "We are trying to identify a locality with the need and a favourable host community. Once the first project goes through, we can go to the Government with an example. Once the model starts, after three or four years the scheme will gain momentum," he says.

Mr Ahmad hopes to incorporate Islamic architectural influences of the sort seen in Spain and Portugal into basic British house designs. "We are discussing this with architects and English Heritage and will adjust according to the rules. This is about regeneration in quite deprived areas. There is a religious obligation to help out."

SMART MOVES

Lord Soper's house for sale

THE home of Lord Soper, the radical preacher who spread messages of faith at Speakers' Corner for 70 years, is for sale for £600,000. Lord Soper, who died in December, aged 95, was still preaching in his last year of life, despite being confined to a wheelchair. The detached three-bedroom house in Bigwood Road, in the heart of Hampstead Garden Suburb, had been his home for 30 years. "It's an attractive double-gabled, cottage-style property with gardens on two sides," says Keith Ackerman, of Benham & Reeves.



Lord Soper: radical messages

PARK HOUSE, in Rutland Gate — located in the grounds of Rutland House, in Knightsbridge — is for sale. The house was built for John Sheepshanks (1787-1863), an art connoisseur and public benefactor whose collections of British paintings included Constables and Turners. It has recently been occupied by the Accademia Italiana, which took it over from the French Consulate in 1989, and is for sale through Michael Tims & Company for £8 million.

THE former dowry house where Beatrix Potter wrote *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* is up for sale. Eastwood House, near Dunkeld in Perthshire, is located on the banks of the River Tay, and few people realise how important Scotland was to the writer and the influence that it had on her.



Peter Rabbit: created in Scotland

Potter, who with her brother Bertram had a strict upbringing in Kensington, West London, was educated mainly by governesses. The most exciting moments of her life were holidays in rural Scotland, where Potter met Charlie McIntosh, an amateur naturalist who inspired her fascination with nature. Potter frequently visited Eastwood, where she also created Mrs Tiggywinkle and Jeremy Fisher.

The property's impressive garden, now firmly netted against rabbits, leads down to the river, which is well-stocked with salmon. William Jackson, of Knight Frank,

says: "There is a demand for country houses in Perthshire and it is rare that one of such quality is offered for lease. I believe that the addition of the salmon fishing on one of Scotland's most famous rivers will add to the interest."

Knight Frank's Edinburgh office is letting the partly furnished house for an initial period of two to three years. The annual rent, including gardening services, is £20,000.

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CHANGING TIMES

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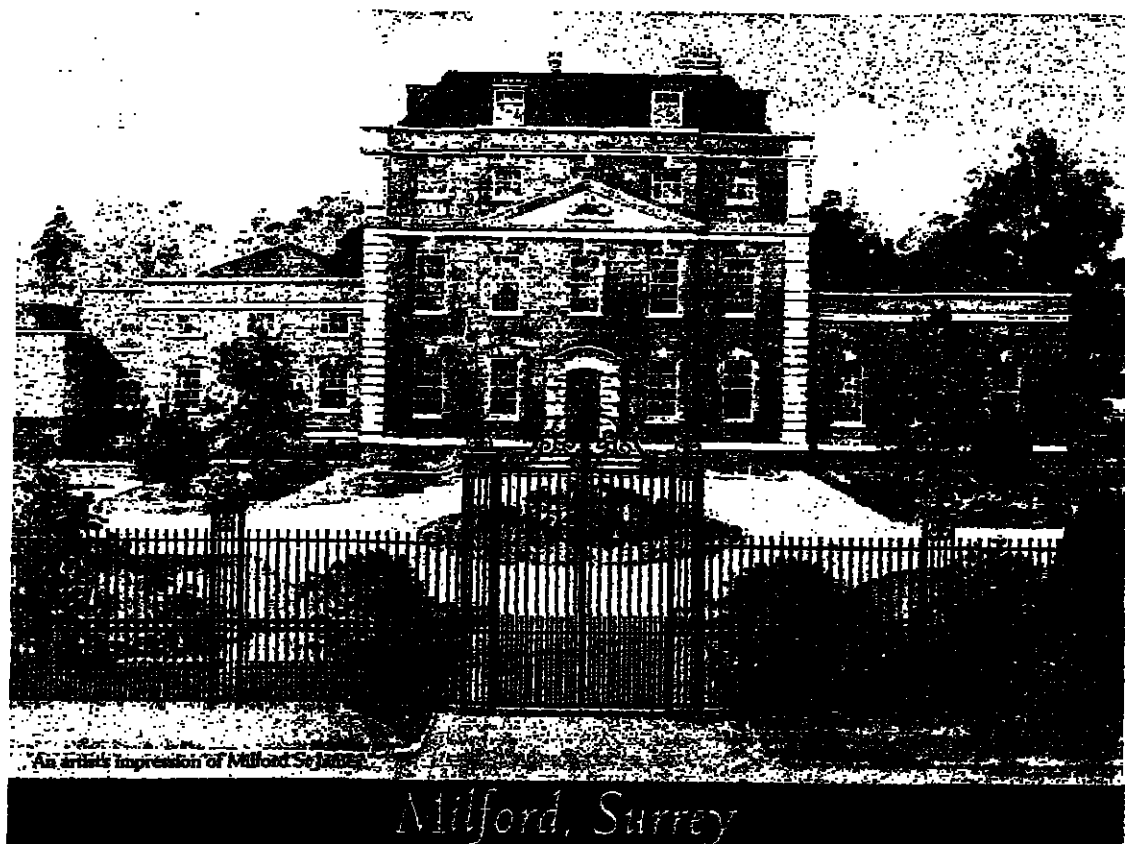
And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us — any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone. Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

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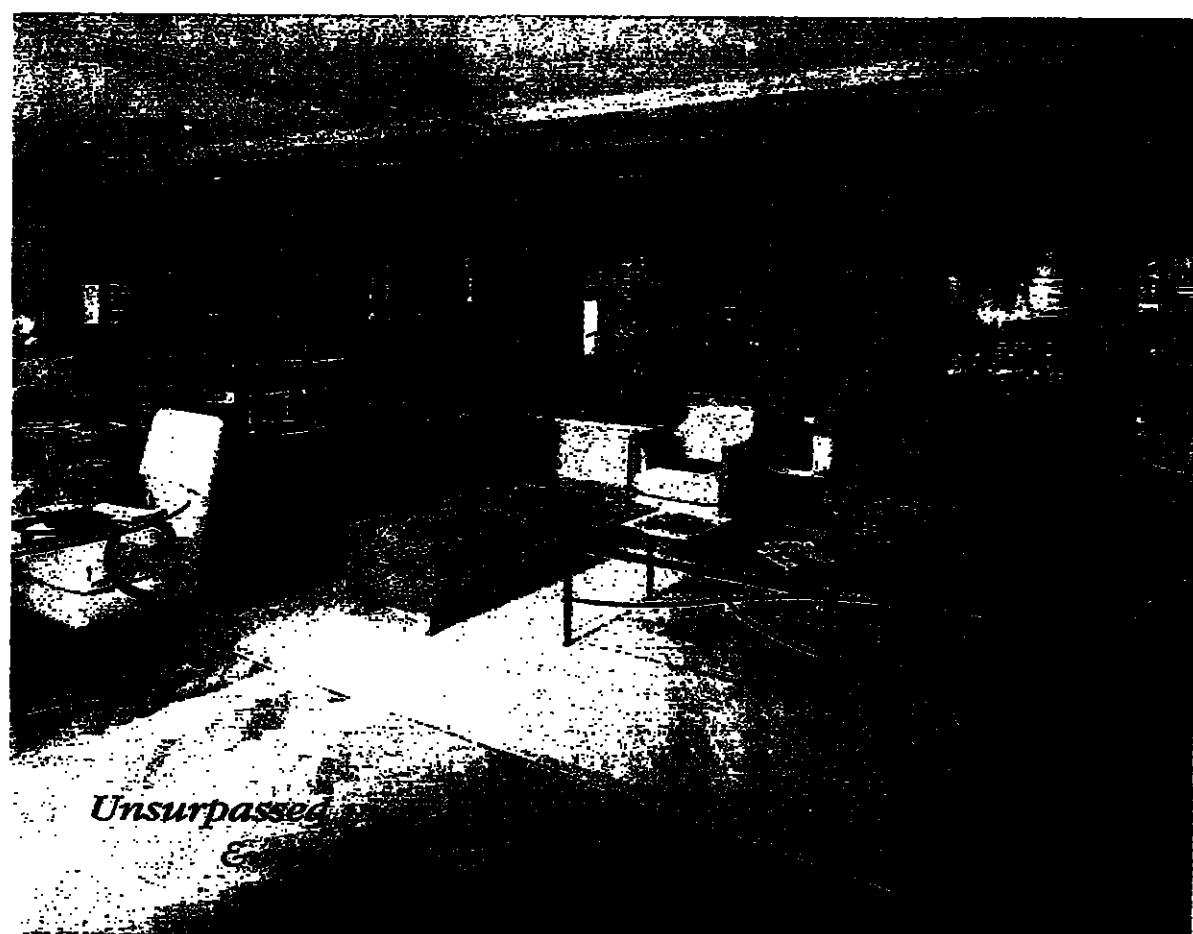
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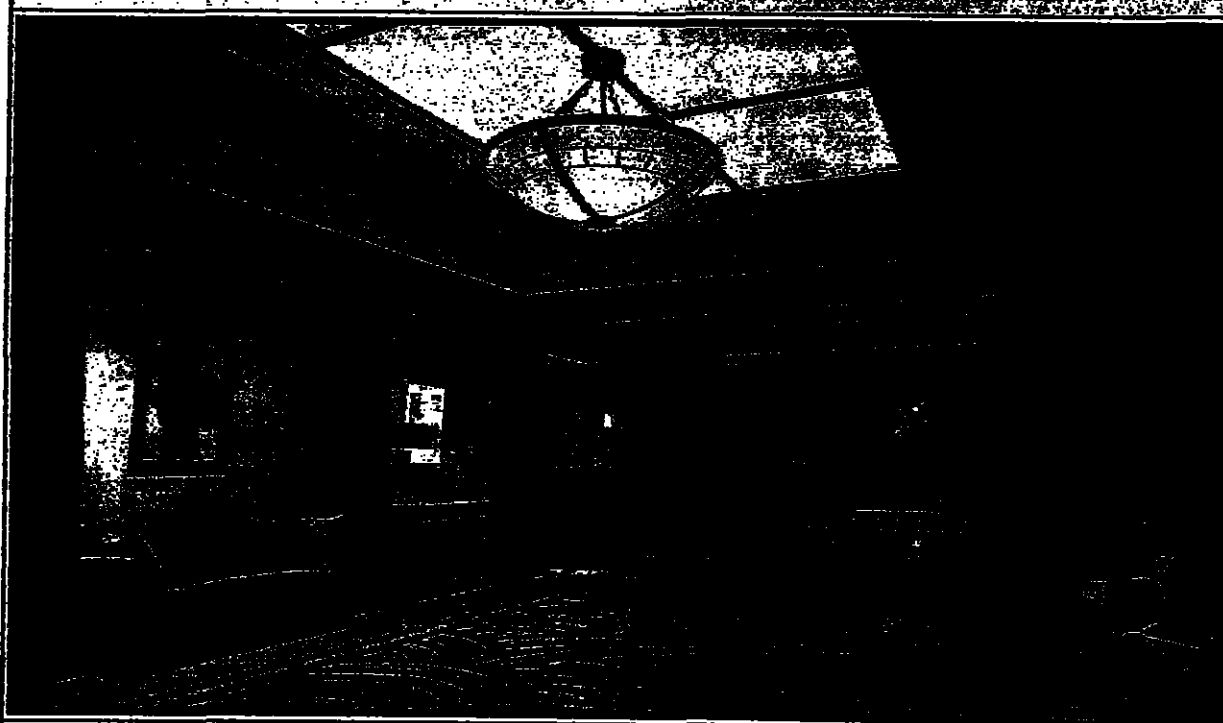
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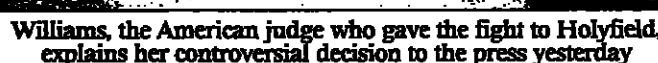
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CHANGING

SUNNINGDALE FOURSOMES

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BY DAVID RHYS JONES

One reason for this season's upheaval is the absence of five of England's leading players — Catherine Anton, Jean Baker, Katherine Hawes, Mary Price and Norma Shaw — who are in Cape Town.

Doreen Hankin, Strutt's Egham colleague, skipped her rink to a 19-16 win over Janet Ackland, the 1988 world outdoor singles champion and Wales captain, while the rink skipped by Jayne Roylance sank to a 17-12 defeat against Maureen Tanner's quartet.

Results, page 45

IN THE QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE"



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CHANGING TIMES

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FOOTBALL

Celtic pair set to cash in with Wednesday deal

By PHIL GORDON AND STEPHEN WOOD

PHIL O'DONNELL and Simon Donnelly will quadruple their salaries when they complete their moves from Celtic to Sheffield Wednesday. The players, both available on free transfers under the Bosman ruling, have signed pre-contract agreements for next season, although Wednesday said yesterday that they have not yet given up hope of recruiting them earlier.

"We've come to an agreement with both players and they will join us in the summer, if not before," Danny Wilson, the Wednesday manager, said. He has offered a nominal fee to enable the midfield players to move to Hillsborough before the transfer deadline.

"We're still talking with Celtic and if something happens, then great," Wilson said. "If it doesn't happen and we can't force the issue, then we will sign them before the start

of next season. If we can get them before then it will be a big boost, but they will be a boost to the squad anyway because it adds competition for places, which is what we have been trying to do."

If Celtic are left out of pocket it will mirror the situation when John Collins took advantage of the Bosman ruling by joining AS Monaco in 1996. Uefa, the European governing body, subsequently ruled against Celtic's £3 million compensation claim, although the market value of O'Donnell and Donnelly would only match that sum combined.

Celtic's stringent pay policy for domestic players meant that Donnelly and O'Donnell, like Collins, decided that their futures lay away from Celtic Park. Donnelly, 24, who was in the Scotland squad at the World Cup finals last summer, scored 16 goals last

season as Celtic won the championship, yet he was one of the poorest-paid players in the first-team squad.

While foreign recruits — including Regi Blinker, the Holland winger, who joined from Wednesday — were kept on the bench by Donnelly's form, they earned three times as much as he did. Donnelly and O'Donnell can expect to earn £3 million each during their four-year contracts with the FA Carling Premiership club.

O'Donnell, 26, was Celtic's record transfer when he moved from Motherwell in 1994 for £1.75 million and while his time at the club has been blighted by injury he will be leaving after probably his most consistent season.

"Wednesday offered us the security that Celtic didn't but I am disappointed that Celtic didn't go to any great extremes to keep us," O'Donnell said. "Both my contract and Simon's expired in four months and while Celtic made us an initial offer some time ago, which was not difficult to reject, they had a long time to resolve the situation."

"I could not hold on for ever for Celtic. They were my preferred option if the deal was right, but there had been no contact within the last eight weeks. Sheffield Wednesday, however, were very impressive, as was the manager."

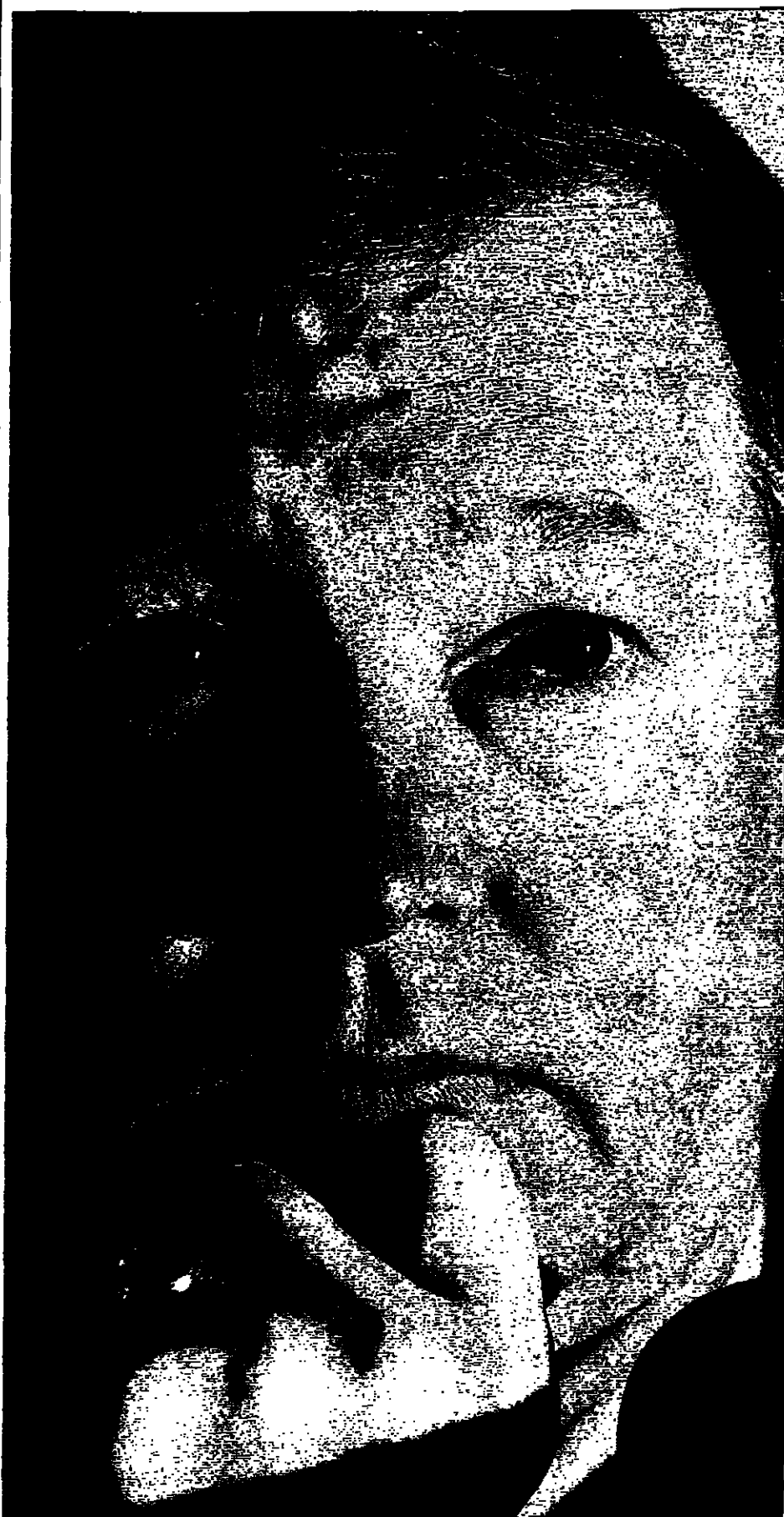
Wilson, however, is facing disappointment in his attempt to bring Michael Mols, the Utrecht striker, to Hillsborough. The deal appeared to be finalised before Rangers, leaders of the Scottish Premier League, showed an interest and Mols has admitted that Rangers are now the favourites to secure his services.

Wilson insisted that the acquisitions of O'Donnell and Donnelly were not a knee-jerk reaction to his failure to tempt Mols to the club. "The two Celtic lads would have joined us whatever happened," he said. "They can play in a number of positions across midfield and up front and, because they've played regularly for Celtic in Europe, they have tremendous experience. They are fresh faces and will add some competition to the squad."

Wednesday are still interested in strengthening their squad before the transfer deadline on March 25. Chris Waddle, the former Wednesday player, is believed to have watched Pascal N'Goma, a striker with RC Lens, the French champions, on their behalf.

Ronaldo's return haunts United

FROM OLIVER HOIT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN MILAN



Despite his confident words yesterday, Ferguson knows that Manchester United's job against Internazionale is only half-completed. Photograph: Dan Chung

THE assistant in the club shop at the San Siro was peering out through the concrete tunnel to see the green of the pitch, the brilliant white of the net and the giant shadow cast by the Curva Sud. He was holding a pile of blue and black shirts, newly embellished with the names of Ronaldo and Baggio. He began to laugh as he stared out at the arena. "Beautiful stadium," he said, "but a shame about Inter."

Less than a mile away, at the Manchester United team hotel, Alex Ferguson was not treating the Italians with quite the same disdain, even though the Internazionale squad was riven with more dissent yesterday when Paulo Sousa was banished for questioning the ability of Mircea Lucescu, the coach.

Ferguson sidestepped indignant questions about his views on Inter's propensity for dirty tricks. The United manager suggested, in fact, that should they hold off Inter here tonight, it would give them the confidence to win the European Cup. If they protect the 2-0 lead that they built in the first leg of this quarter-final at Old Trafford, if they prove to themselves that they are worldly-wise enough to dispose of an Italian side at this stage of the competition, then the trophy that they have chased for more than 30 years will be within reach.

"We are in a knockout situation now," Ferguson said. "It is sudden death and the value of away goals is vital. So we have done one part well and I hope we do the next part even better. If we score tomorrow night — and I think we will — then we will go through."

"I think my players know that if they get by this tie they can win the whole thing. I think this is the hardest one for us. It is a good incentive for us. Italian sides are the barometer of success in Europe. They have been for the last decade. If you can knock an Italian team out of Europe you are taking a giant stride forward."

If United do allow their lead to be wiped out it will be a devastating blow. This Inter side is there for the taking, terribly vulnerable in defence and uncertain going forward. They are looking to Ronaldo to inspire them, but he is only half-fit. Time and again on Saturday, Inter were split wide open by the marauding

AC Milan attack as they stumbled to a 2-2 draw that left them languishing in eighth place in Serie A.

They looked particularly fragile on the left, where the replacement of Aron Winter by Michael Silvestre has done nothing to suggest that David Beckham will not have another field day supplying ammunition for Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole. If United score, Inter will have to get four to go through, and this side is not capable of that.

The one lingering cause for concern is the spectre of Ronaldo. The Brazil striker has been rushed back from a knee injury and played fitfully and tentatively in the Milan derby before being taken off at half-time. There is still an aura about him, though, that might unsettle United. Even in his reduced state he is capable of the flash of inspiration — the

PROBABLE TEAMS

Manchester United (4-2-3-1): 1. Schuster; 2. S. Wright, 3. S. Wright, 4. S. Wright, 5. S. Wright, 6. S. Wright, 7. S. Wright, 8. S. Wright, 9. S. Wright, 10. S. Wright, 11. S. Wright, 12. S. Wright, 13. S. Wright, 14. S. Wright, 15. S. Wright, 16. S. Wright, 17. S. Wright, 18. S. Wright, 19. S. Wright, 20. S. Wright, 21. S. Wright, 22. S. Wright, 23. S. Wright, 24. S. Wright, 25. S. Wright, 26. S. Wright, 27. S. Wright, 28. S. Wright, 29. S. Wright, 30. S. Wright, 31. S. Wright, 32. S. Wright, 33. S. Wright, 34. S. Wright, 35. S. Wright, 36. S. Wright, 37. S. Wright, 38. S. Wright, 39. S. Wright, 40. S. Wright, 41. S. Wright, 42. S. Wright, 43. S. Wright, 44. S. Wright, 45. S. Wright, 46. S. Wright, 47. S. Wright, 48. S. Wright, 49. S. Wright, 50. S. Wright, 51. S. Wright, 52. S. Wright, 53. S. Wright, 54. S. Wright, 55. S. Wright, 56. S. Wright, 57. S. Wright, 58. S. Wright, 59. S. Wright, 60. S. Wright, 61. S. Wright, 62. S. Wright, 63. S. Wright, 64. S. Wright, 65. S. Wright, 66. 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RUGBY UNION

Grayson's injury lets in Catt by back door

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE rise and fall and rise again of Mike Catt was duly continued yesterday. He has accumulated 32 caps in a mercurial career for England over five seasons and will return at fly half on Saturday to play France in the Five Nations Championship at Twickenham, the only amendment to the XV that left Dublin earlier this month tolerably content with the defeat of Ireland.

Catt, 27, recovers the No 10 jersey because of the groin injury suffered by Paul Grayson that will keep him out of the remainder of the championship.

ENGLAND TEAM

M B Perry (Bath), D L Rose (Sale), J P Whitworth (Newcastle), J C Goss (Bath), D L Rose (Sale), M J Catt (Bath), K P P Bracken (Bath), J Lumsden (Leeds), P Goodwin (Leeds), D J Garforth (Leeds), M O Johnson (Leeds), T A K Rotherham (Northampton), R A A Black (Leeds), L B N Dalglish (Worcester), R Ponsford (Leeds), N D Beal (Northampton), S J Mather (Sale), M S Duggan (Northampton), M E Carty (Leeds), G S Archer (Newcastle), V E Ugochi (Bath), M McCarthy (Gloucester).

but he does so on his own merits as well. Catt played well in the victory over South Africa in December and if his game was lacking lustre against Scotland, the same criticism was true of several colleagues.

"It's always disappointing being left out of anything, but I have another chance and I have to work from there," Catt said. "We seem to chop and change every other week at fly half, but now I'm in the driving seat again I have to try and cement it. It was important for me to show I was back in the swing of things playing against Richmond last weekend, and things went well."

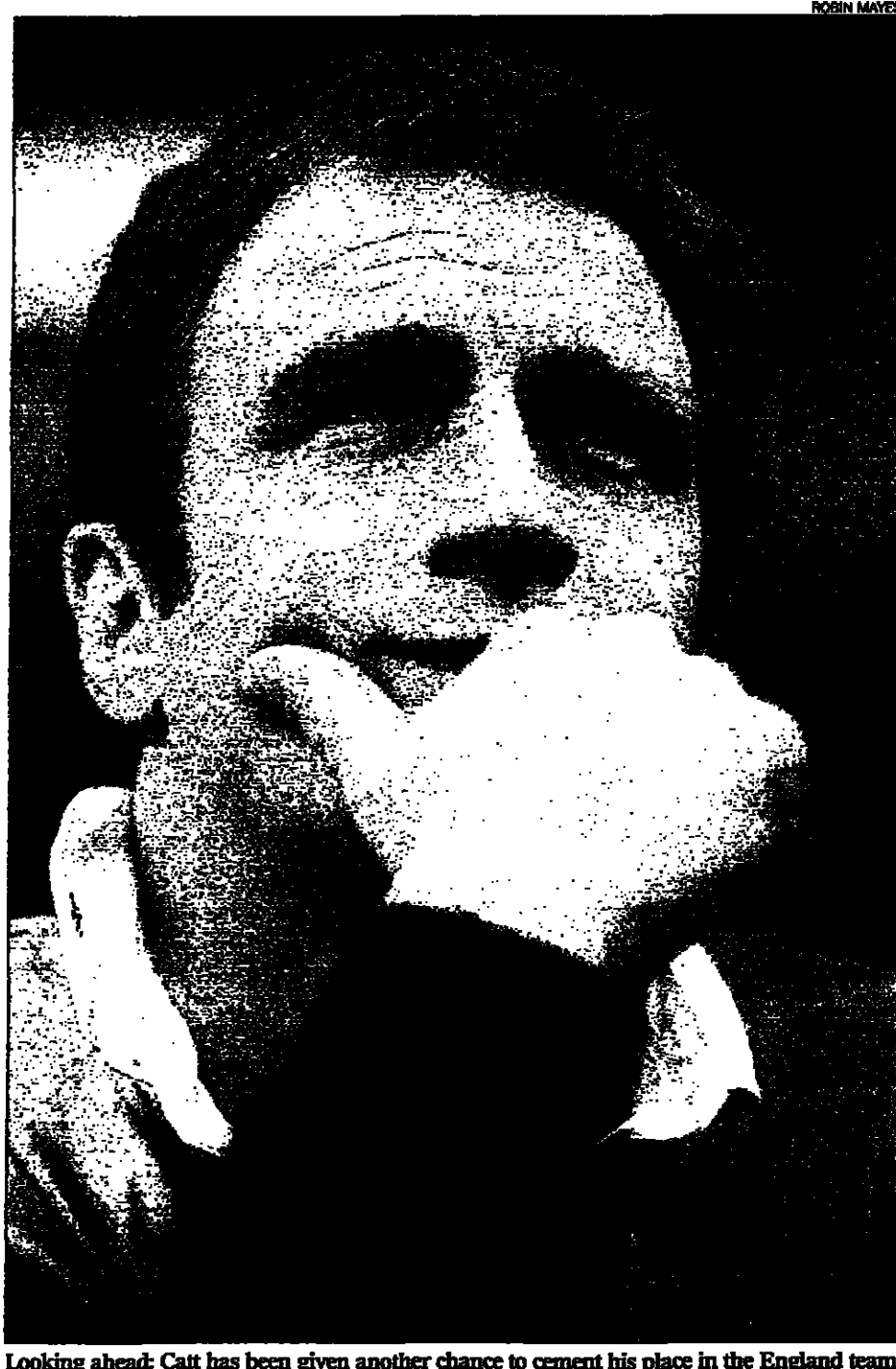
Predictably, Clive Woodward, the England coach, made no other changes save

those forced upon him among the replacements. Danny Grewcock, the Saracens lock, damaged knee ligaments in training last week — he is likely to be out for at least six weeks — and surrenders his place on the bench to Garath Archer. Catt's place as utility back goes to Barrie-Jon Mathers, the Sale centre, who did not enjoy the happiest of internationals against Ireland.

Mathers plays outside centre for his club, and has played wing since his return from rugby league last summer, but his handling has not proved the best part of his game and he does not make the physical impact one would expect from a player standing 6ft 6in and 16st 4lb. Nevertheless, he is the only uncapped member of the squad and is now within reach at senior level of emulating his achievements as a schoolboy international, albeit that he was then playing at lock.

Woodward had no difficulty making the straightforward change of Catt for Grayson. He had the option of moving Jonathan Wilkinson to the pivotal role but has been more than happy with the youngster's performance at centre. In any case, Wilkinson's strong left foot ensures that he can take up the fly-half role if occasion demands it. "We are getting into a position of strength with Catt, Wilkinson and even Matt Perry capable of playing fly half," Woodward said.

"I was disappointed when Paul Grayson had to pull out. Grayson did a fantastic job for us in Ireland and played exactly the way we wanted him to play. Now Catt has a marvellous opportunity in a colossal game and I have been happy with the way guys have reacted when they are not in the starting XV — people like Catt



Looking ahead: Catt has been given another chance to cement his place in the England team

and Matt Dawson have been very positive, they know their chance will come again."

The match will be Jason Leonard's seventieth for his country and only three other players (Rory Underwood 85, Will Carling 72 and Rob Andrew 71) stand ahead of him. That is a depth of experience that Warren Gatland, the Ireland coach, is striving to achieve with his squad, which shows two changes for the meeting with Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday.

Jonathan Bell returns to the centre and Eric Miller will play No 8. Bell would have played against England but for a dead leg, the luckless Rob Henderson reverting to the placements of whom eight will

travel to Scotland today. Among them will be Victor Costello, whose place in the back row has been taken by Miller after an anonymous showing against England. Costello or Trevor Brennan, his club colleague, will be pruned from the squad tomorrow while Miller has a third opportunity to show he should be regarded as a first choice.

He played blindside flanker against France and No 8 against Wales. When he came on in the final quarter against England he made a significant impact and Gatland was criticised for not introducing him earlier when it was evident that Costello was struggling.

Ireland team, page 45

Injuries to force changes on France

By DAVID HANDS

THE France team that will be named today to play England on Saturday will have undergone change after the unexpected defeat by Wales, but will hardly resemble the XV they will field in the World Cup this autumn. How can it, when injury has ripped so badly at the French sides?

England may regret their damaged midfield, but France have lost almost half a team. David Venditti and Christophe Lamaison, the Brive backs, have only just returned to action and the talented Bourgoin centre, Stephane Glas, is still nursing a broken leg. Richard Dourthe limped out of the Wales game and will not return to this championship and behind them all the inconvertible Jean-Luc Sadourny is still honing his game at full back for Colomiers after a belated start to the season.

Pascal Giordani, the Dax centre, is likely to win his first cap alongside Franck Comba but the significant changes will be in the back row. The recall of Christophe Juliette, the forceful No 8 from Stade Français, seems likely to push Thomas Lemermet to the blind-side flank with Richard Castel on the open-side. Lemermet's reading of the game has been reminiscent of that which Dean Richards used to offer England. He is the nearest France have come to replacing Abelati Benazzi, the former captain, who has played only three games of his comeback with Agen after an absence of eight months following knee surgery.

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TV for armchair scientists

Tomorrow's World: Megalab
BBC1, 7pm

This Tomorrow's World special is mostly live so there are no preview tapes to judge it by. Ambitious certainly as part of a national week of science, engineering and technology, Peter Snow and Philippa Forrester are encouraging viewers to take part in a series of experiments probing subjects as diverse as memory and aesthetics to explore the workings of the brain. Jez Nelson reports on the world's first Internet single which will be recorded during the course of the programme — plenty of big names taking part and the final mix to go to charity. And live from East Sussex, Craig Doyle covers the move of the Belle Tout lighthouse to save the listed building from falling into the sea because of the erosion of the cliff face at Beachy Head.

Casualty 250: The Fall Medical
BBC1, 8pm

A bit of Auntie patting herself on the back here. Casualty reached its 250th episode last month and this behind-the-scenes documentary charts its success and shows how it has mirrored tensions in the NHS even, at one point, provoking questions in Parliament. When the series began in the mid-1980s the NHS was underfunded, overstretched and being progressively run down. Much of this was (and is) reflected in Holby's A&E. Drama-wise, in the early days you could glimpse such present-day luminaries as Kate Winslet, Robert Carlyle, Robson Green, and Sam Shepherd. Brenda Fricker and Lisa Coleman were regulars and even Norman Wisdom put in an appearance.

Modern Times: Diana's Neighbours
BBC2, 9pm

A smashing study of Little Englanders at war — or how the "loft" of Kensington Gardens, London W8, responded to Gordon Brown's scheme to build a memorial garden in honour of the late Princess of Wales. Diana's fans would love it — they're still hanging flowers on the gilded gates of her home. But the action committee's Mrs Rhine Rudd will



Science in the home with Peter Snow and Philippa Forrester: Megalab (BBC1, 7pm)

have none of it. "I think their poems are sweet," she says of the fans, "even if they are dreadful." Another resident, the art critic Brian Sewell, is more vociferous: "Kensington Gardens is part of my life... I won't be told what to do by a bloody Scot [Brown]." Opposing them is the local tour guide Karen Taylor who calls Rhine's lot "geriatric boogymen who throw words instead of bottles." The result of all this bickering is now known — but you get the feeling it's not over yet.

The X-Files: The End
BBC1, 10pm (Northern Ireland, 11pm)

A real edge-of-the-seater closes the series. Yes, it will return but given the way this chapter ends I don't see how. Poor Mulder (David Duchovny) — you will weep for him as the credits roll. Indeed he is Mulder (Gillian Anderson), nearly done. What more can I say without giving too much away? Terrific opener — a chess game between a Russian grand master and a little boy. The boy says "Checkmate" and pulls back — missing a bullet intended to kill him but killing the Russian instead. Why? Does the Cigarette Smoking Man know? Or the Syndicate Elder (John Neville) who has him kidnapped? Elizabeth Cowley

RADIO CHOICE

International 5 Man United
Radio 5 and Talk Radio, 7pm

Kevin MacKenzie, the quiet, self-effacing chap who runs Talk Radio, said in an interview with Broadcast magazine the other day that the BBC had no business buying sports rights, it ought to be "doing programmes about sparrows in Serbia and the lower-crested rhubarb hummer." While we await the formal announcement of this policy change at the Corporation, the BBC and Talk are engaged in a battle for radio rights that manifests itself tonight as a score draw: both networks are carrying live commentary from the San Siro stadium, where United defeated a 2-0 first leg lead. The commentary box match is between Alan Parry and Andy Gray of Talk and Mike Ingham and Alan Green of 5 Live. Marks out 10, please.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 3.00 Chris Moyles 4.00 Newsbeat 6.00 David Pearson 8.00 Evening Session 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode 10.10 John Peel 12.00 Dream City Film Club in session 12.00 Gilles Peterson 2.00am Olve Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Johnnie Walker 3.00 Nick Barclay 4.00 Mike Harding 5.00 Barry Gormley 6.00 Alan 10.00 Top of the Pops 2 10.30 Richard Alderson 12.00 Katrina Leschkaner 3.00am Mo Dutt

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

6.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 8.00 Nicky Campbell 10.00 Midday News 12.00 The Cheltenham Festival. Day two of the festival, including at 2.25 The Queen Mother Champion Chase 10.00 News 2.00 Johnnie Walker's European Cup quarter-final with Internazionale. See Choice. Plus, the National Lottery Draw 10.00 Littlejohn 11.00 Late Night Live with Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00 Let's Talk 1.00pm Anna Rastburn 4.00 The Sports Zone 7.00 Internazionale v Manchester United. See Choice 10.30 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Mark Forrest 1.00am James Meritt 4.30 Richard Allen

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny celebrates the 250th anniversary of Handel's Solomon
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobbay, Shostakovich (The Oboes); Faure (Berceuse); Debussy (Prose Inquiet); Mahler (Symphony No 4)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Gillian Weir
11.00 Sound Stories: Medical Matters A look at Chopin and his respiratory problems
12.00 Composer of the Week: Johannes Brahms
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Another chance to hear a concert from last year's Cheltenham Festival. Scamps Quartet, Judith Hall, Julia Moore (Piano Quartet in D, 1825); Jonathan Lloyd (The Apprentice's Soliloquy for solo flute); Janacek (String Quartet No 2, Intimate Letters) (f)
2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Alan Fiddes and Clemens Krauss; Paul Boyes, bassoon; Dvorak (Overture: Othello); Mozart (Symphony No 41 in C, K351); Juppier; Hummel (Bassoon Concerto in F); Brahms (Symphony No 3 in F)
4.00 Choral Evening Song Live from the National Cathedral of St Patrick, Dublin, a service for St Patrick's Day. Organist and master of the choristers John Deane, Assistant organist David Leigh
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty celebrates St Patrick's Day with Barry Duggan, who has toured Europe with the choir. The first orchestra to employ musicians from both sides of the border

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today Rural issues, with Ashley Gething 6.00 Today with John Naughtie and John Humphrys 6.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Round up of political developments
9.00 Midweek The Times columnist Libby Purves plays host to lively conversation
9.45 (LW) Daily Service Director of Music Alan Wilson 9.45 (FM) Serials Letters from My Windmill Stephen Fry reads from Alphonse Daudet's passionate account of life in Provence (3/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests
11.00 Group Seven Students report on their experiences of 12 meetings
11.30 Our Man at Wembley Eric Holliday assumes his upper-class accent to comment on the forthcoming FA Cup Final (2/4) (f)
12.00 (LW) Newsline Newsline Shipping Forecast 12.00 (FM) News 12.00pm You and Yours Consumer news and investigations
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Inspiration Adam Hart-Davis, Lewis Wolpert, Susan Greenfield and Sue Nelson join Chris Stuart to explore the world of innovations, discoveries and invention
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (f)
2.15 Afternoon Play: East Coast Line (Northbound) Lesley Gleave's drama exploring the secrets sedulously guarded by a motley collection of train passengers. With Wendy Seggar, Liam Brennan and Crawford Logan
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time (f)
3.30 Carnival Tales Mark Fisher experiences the carnival atmosphere of Brazil's original slave-trading port, Salvador (3/5)
3.45 This Scattered Isle Anna Massey narrates part 58 of the history of Britain (f)

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-98.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 158; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 880, 908. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 158 (12.45-6.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Massey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

ACROASIS

(b) In ancient history, an oral discourse, a discourse listened to. Transliteration of the Greek word.

APOTACTICAL

(c) Renouncing, recant. From the Greek *apostasis* (cf. Luke ix, 61) to say adieu to, renounce.

BASHALICK

(c) Earlier form of Pashalik, the district under the jurisdiction of a pasha.

BRICOLE

(c) An ancient military engine or catapult for throwing stones or bolts. Hence, in the absurd game of real tennis, the rebound of a ball from the wall of a tennis-court.

SOLUTION TO THE WINNING MOVE

Solution: 1...Qxf1+ 2 Kxf1 Rd1+ 3 Ke2 Re1+ 4 Kd3 Rxe5 5 Kxc2 Re2+ with an easy win on material.

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سكان من النهر

Great pitch — a shame about the players

It's only after seeing him being interviewed by Alan Hansen on *Football Millionaires* (BBC1) that you understand how David Beckham can run up a £1,000 telephone bill talking to his fiancée, Posh Spice, during a World Cup qualifying week in Georgia.

The first £1,000 must have been swallowed up just struggling to tell her what the weather was like. Talking coherently really does seem to be that much of an effort for him. If listening to Beckham speak keeps you on the edge of your seat, it's not because he is saying anything gripping, but because you're worrying if he's going to make it to the end of the sentence. Beckham has the football talent of a Titan, but the mental complexity of a tomato.

But so what if he does? Beckham doesn't earn £8 million a year as a stand-up comedian. He's a footballer. He's not paid to sound eloquent. There are very few

players like Camus, or even Cantor, on today's pitches. Even great novelists can sound as dull as dirt when asked to speak in public. Then again, why should we expect writers to sound fluent when their skill is milking 500 usable words out of their typewriter every day?

Beckham's inarticulacy last night was not really his problem. But it certainly was Hansen's. It meant that a documentary which must have sounded tantalising when it was being pitched — there are 70 millionaires in the Premiership, and rich footballers now have a magazine just for them, full of adverts aimed at the thickness of their wallets — proved less riveting than watching Scarborough play.

This may explain why Hansen kept returning, like a desperate drunk to the liquor bottle, to players like David Ginola and Tony Adams. Ginola and Adams, while they weren't saying much, at least said it in joined-up thinking.

Michael Owen and Alan Shearer also spoke to Hansen in full sentences, but they have both become so slick at answering journalists' questions in a way that sounds accommodating while actually giving nothing away that they, too, told us little we didn't know about modern football.

If you needed this programme to inform you that top footballers are now as famous as film stars, and earn at least as much, then you're probably not the sort of person who would have been watching anyway.

The one new fact to emerge — well, Hansen certainly made it sound like a scoop — was Beckham's admission that after his fateful sending-off during last summer's World Cup, Hoddle didn't even speak to him after the game. So Beckham behaved like a spoilt brat, after which Hoddle behaved like a chilly, channess

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

churl: actually, there's not much new there, either. Still, the clips of all those goals were good.

I'm not sure that Germaine Greer: Close to the Bone, Louise Wardle's film for BBC2's *Close Up* series, told us all that much we didn't know about its subject either, but at least it told it entertainingly, with plenty of delicious archive footage. The problem with Greer, of course, is not getting her

to talk but shutting her up. She is fiercely smart. Nevertheless, a lot of what she says is either outrageous or barking, which doesn't stop her believing it entirely and passionately: this is part of her strange charm.

For example, nobody will faint with shock when they read that the subtitle of her new book, *The Whole Woman*, is "It's Time To Get Angry Again". Greer can get angry about three new things before breakfast. And she'll never tap you on the shoulder to attract your attention if she can grab you by the lapels and hoist you against the wall. Getting angry has become such an instinctive part of her approach to the world that she can now say even very obvious or banal things such as, "Yes is often drunk with milk" as if she were revealing a great truth — and if we dunderheads refuse to acknowledge this important truth, then the world will go to hell in a hand-

basket ("For Chrissake, if women aren't being offered milk in their tea, then a helluva lot of women are simply not getting tea the way they like it. It's insanity!"). Don't bother arguing back. As wide as Greer's vocabulary is, "I take your point" is not a phrase she probably uses often.

Listen to her giving a lecture. She is explaining to her mostly female audience why sexual intercourse is not necessarily a mark of intimacy by comparing it to sticking her little finger up a man's nostril. To Greer, both acts represent the same degree of penetration ("You're not really inside them at all"). Now, either I'm doing something wrong, or there's actually quite a big difference between these two actions — and that's over and above what Greer's thesis might imply about people who pick their own nose in public. Greer herself seems to be past

penetration, past earth-shaking orgasms (too exhausting, she says) and, for all we know, past inserting her finger up men's nostrils, because she confessed that what she now likes doing best is thinking: "I'm very keen on thinking." But what makes her stand out is that few people are willing then to bare their thoughts and passions so publicly, unconcerned about how batty others might find her.

The jacket designers of her new book had to bite their tongue when she rejected their prototypes in favour of a photograph of her wearing a Philippine fertility amulet embedded in a raw steak (which she later ate), an image which she believed conveyed the meaty, bloody, fertility of womanhood. It would have been nice to know if this image also reminded David Beckham of his beloved Posh — provided, of course, we had enough time to hang around for his answer.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (89058)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (32017)
- 9.00 Kilroy (1) (2453291)
- 9.45 Wipeout (1) (3981956)
- 10.10 The Vanessa Show (1) (7342630)
- 10.55 News: Weather (1) (350217)
- 11.00 Change That (1) (321248)
- 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (3982253)
- 11.55 News: Weather (1) (7960231)
- 12.00 Call My Bluff (2) (29494)
- 12.30am Top Tip Challenge (1) (4443849)
- 12.55 The Weather Show (1) (53587949)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (1) (35104)
- 1.30 Regional News: Weather (5940524)
- 1.40 Neighbours: Toadie is accused of poisoning Happy the dog (1) (3554982)
- 2.05 Ironside (1) (5760727)
- 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6306524)
- 3.45 Little Monsters (590125) 3.50 ChuckleVision (4201283) 4.10 Saw It, Saw It (5343378) 4.35 The Wild House (390727) 5.00 Newsround (4545253) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (3332340)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (334727)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News: Weather (1) (659)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazine (611)
- 7.00 **CHOICE** Megalab '99 Peter Snow and Philippa Forster encourage viewers to take part in the largest ever mass participation experiment (1) (3307)



Kate Winslet in a scene from the long-running medical drama (8pm)

- 8.00 **CHOICE** Casualty 250: The Full Medical A celebration of Britain's longest-running medical drama, drawing on the experiences of those familiar with Holby City A&E (1) (287765)
- 8.50 The National Lottery: Greatest Hits Heaven 17 provide the music as Angela Griffin presents the draw (1) (542727)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather (1) (1) (8727) (8727)
- 9.30 Jasper Carrott: Back to the Front More stand-up comedy (4/8) (1) (34814)
- 10.00 **CHOICE** The X-Files An attempt on the life of a psychic boy and a chance encounter with a woman from Mulder's past spark an investigation which may finally unravel the mystery of the X-Files. Last in series (1) (780388)
- 10.50 Casualty 250: Poisonous gas floods the docks, and Baz realises that a friend may be responsible (1) (1) (343415)
- 11.40 Prelude to a Kiss (1999) A mysterious old man catches new bride to undergo a bizarre personality change. Romantic fantasy, with Meg Ryan and Alec Baldwin. Directed by Norman René (1) (406765)
- 12.00am Weather (1) (1061234)
- 1.25 BBC News 24 (35360895)

WALES

- 10.50 The State (955330) 11.20 Casualty 250 (1) (41307) 12.10am Prelude to a Kiss (1) (38757) 1.50 News (1) (1204186) 1.55-6.00 BBC News 24 (34554352)

BBC2

- 7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Pingu (737127) 7.05 Teletubbies (651712) 7.30 Snorks (523185) 7.50 The Really Wild Show (3341456) 8.15 Rewind (3782727) 8.20 Taz-Mania (5939748) 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (1987494) 8.50 Pingu (1983678) 9.00 Images of Style (7505484) 9.10 What? Where? When? Why? (7555330) 9.25 The Art (4243220) 9.45 Words and Pictures (6814630) 10.00 Teletubbies (12765)
- 10.30 Numberline (9165104) 10.45 Watch (9161659) 11.00 Around Scotland (3182104) 11.20 The Geography Programme (3039104) 11.40 Science in Action (5410185) 12.00 News: Weather (1) (3174814) 12.15pm Hello Aus Berlin (4962388) 12.30 Working Lunch (45 620) 1.00 Brum (6880624)
- 1.10 War Walks (3/6) (1) (41637920)
- 1.40 Hart-Davis on History (35560475)
- 2.10 Awash with Colour (56320524)
- 2.40 News: Weather (1) (3174814)
- 2.45 Westminster (1) (5849001)
- 3.00 News: Weather (1) (6026801)
- 3.55 Kaye Advice show (9358291)
- 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (6045033)
- 4.55 Esther (1) (5020017)
- 5.30 Whose House? (388)
- 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation Picard is forced to confront a difficult episode from his past (1) (1) (853017)



Sarah Michelle Gellar stars as the high school heroine (8.45pm)

- 6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer Buffy comes to the aid of Cordelia, the school's most popular pupil (1) (287104)
- 7.30 Sophie Grigson's Herbs Tasty ideas for a salmon and dill burger (1) (765)
- 8.00 University Challenge (1) (5036)
- 8.30 Looking Good: Statewide fashions, a bargain alternative to a facelift and a guide to applying mascara (1) (4543)
- 9.00 **CHOICE** Modern Times: Diana's Neighbours Report on why angry London residents are opposing plans to build a memorial garden commemorating the death of Diana, Princess of Wales (1) (775920)
- 9.50 Trouble at the Top A £12million project to transform a dilapidated mansion into London's first five-star club (1) (512814)
- 10.30 Newswatch (1) (336253)
- 11.13 Video Nation Shorts (1) (100678)
- 11.15 A Living Hell The family of a suicide victim describe the reality of living with a manic depressive (3/3) (710949)
- 11.55 Weather (978833)
- 12.00 Despatch Box (50895)
- 12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Rocky Shores 1.00 Tropical Forest 1.30 Managing for Biodiversity: Forests in Trinidad 2.00 Schools: Science 4.00 Languages: Make German Your Business 5.00 RCN: Nursing Updates 5.45 Open University: Body Plans 6.10 Insect: Ostrich 6.35 Molluscs, Mechanisms and Minds

HTV

- 5.00am ITV Morning News (25388)
- 6.00 GMTV (5624948)
- 9.25 Trisha (1) (8865678)
- 10.30 This Morning (1) (44461272)
- 12.15pm HTV News and Weather (1) (4958814)
- 12.30 ITV Lunchtime News: Weather (1) (4438017)
- 12.55 Shortland Street Nick falls on his feet (965727)
- 1.30 Home and Away Kai leaves Summer Bay (1) (3578494)
- 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous talk show from America (1) (3583758)
- 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (1) (1811366)
- 3.10 ITV News: Weather (1) (4958814)
- 3.15 HTV News (1) (4958814)
- 3.20 CITV: Mopstar's Shop (4613475) 3.30 Teddybears (9673388) 3.40 Jumanji (9334982) 4.05 Hey Arnold! (6019611) 4.35 Wildcat (3086123)
- 5.00 Home and Away Kai leaves Summer Bay (1) (1) (3678)
- 5.30 WEST: Live and Local Richard Wyatt, Polly Lloyd and Simon Whitty report from a bank holiday (1) (814)
- 5.30 WALES: Up Beat (2/8) (1) (814)
- 5.58 HTV Weather (705494)
- 5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (705494)
- 6.00 HTV News (1) (727)
- 5.30 Peter Gorton for Starters (814)
- 7.00 Coronation Street Nick and Leanne reveal their news (1) (3814)



Dwight Yorke will be looking to add to United's two goal lead (7.30pm)

- 7.30 The Big Match — Live! Internazionale v Manchester United (kick-off 7.45pm). Bob Wilson introduces full coverage of this vital European Cup quarter-final second leg at the San Siro in Milan. Subsequent programmes are subject to change (1) (681185)
- 10.00 Birth Race 2000: On Your Marks Introduction for couples planning a Millennium baby (7/4058)
- 10.05 Football Chasing in the sports world (1) (420494)
- 11.00 ITV Nightly News: Weather (1) (687017)
- 11.20 HTV News and Weather (1) (572748)
- 11.30 The Big Match Highlights of tonight's second leg of the European Cup quarter-finals (820338)
- 12.35am A Taste for Killing (1992) Two spoilt graduates working on an oil rig find their only friend has an ulterior motive for helping them. Thriller, starring Michael Byrne. Directed by Lou Antonio (798876)
- 2.10 The Big Match Dynamo Kiev v Real Madrid (820334)
- 3.50 ITV Sport Classics (820334)
- 4.20 The Making of Ever After: A Cinderella Story Behind the scenes of the romance, starring Drew Barrymore (1) (7349307)
- 4.50 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of TV programmes (4308878)
- 5.00 Coronation Street (1) (1) (88234)

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except: 12.20-12.30pm Central News: Weather (7187982)
- 12.55 Home and Away (4446036)
- 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4001630)
- 2.10-2.40 Echo Point (56357678)
- 3.15-3.20 Central News: Weather (4958814)
- 3.50 Shortland Street (814)
- 6.00-6.30 Central News at Six: Weather (727)
- 11.20-11.30 Central News: Weather (572746)
- 3.55am Central Jobfinder '99 (542673)
- 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3244165)

As HTV West except:

- 12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News: Weather (4958814)
- 12.27-12.30pm Illuminations (7105901)
- 12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live (4446036)
- 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4001630)
- 2.10-2.40 Home and Away (56357678)
- 3.15-3.20 Westcountry News: Weather (4958814)
- 4.59-5.00 Birthday People (7708833)
- 5.30 Peter Gorton for Starters (814)
- 6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live: Weather (727)
- 11.20-11.30 Westcountry News: Weather (572746)

As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30pm

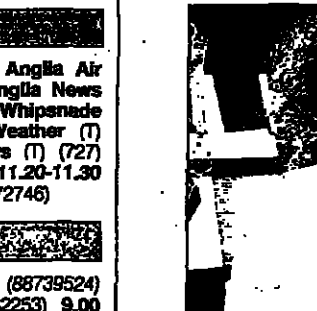
- Meridian News: Weather (4958814) 5.30 Whiplash (819)
- (1) (814) 6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight (1) (727) 7.25-7.30 Meridian Weather (61543)
- 11.20-11.30 Meridian News: Weather (1) (572746) 5.00am-5.30 Freeman (1) (8234)

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (88739524)

- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (67762253) 9.00 Yagellone: The Mix (9733785) 9.30 Real 7-Tab-Tot (74970248) 9.45 Book Box (74988104) 10.00 Stage Two Science (97123388) 10.15 All About Us (97106611) 10.30 The French Programme (51434272) 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen (8535271) 11.00 Y Amygheed (15679220) 11.15 Tackling Technology (15685543) 11.30 Powerhouse (1) (68194533) 12.00 News: Weather (1) (814) 12.30pm Planned Plant (1) (26748746) 1.30 The Cheltenham Festival (6412833) 4.30 Dishes (1) (67026543) 5.00 Planned Plant (1) (6018399) 5.30 Countdown (1) (6704123) 5.50 Newyddion 6 (1) (9336562) 6.00 News: Weather (1) (814) 6.30 Poby y Cwm (1) (9021833) 7.30 Newyddion 6 (1) (6702727) 8.00 Fflemio (1) (9007253) 8.30 Hwilio (1) (9026388) 9.00 Eir (1) (3727849) 10.00 Brookside (1) (72583746) 10.35 Sex and the City (1) (5558595) 11.05 The 11 O'Clock Show (85304748) 11.25 Michael Moore: The Awful Truth (1) (82167611) 12.05am The Cheltenham Festival (6412833) 12.40 boardstupid goes skiing (43957418) 1.45 Football Italia: Mezzanotte (2527878) 4.05 Trans World Sport (4061857) 5.10 Dwind

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (28956)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (25727)
- 9.00 Schools: The Mix (82040) 9.30 Rat-A-Tat (8811543) 9.45 Book Box (861098) 10.00 Stage Two Science (9623036) 10.15 All About Us (9813659) 10.30 French Programme: Chantal Hoppling (1480982) 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen (873253) 11.00 First Edition (3020456) 11.15 Tackling Technology (3043307)
- 11.30 Powerhouse (1) (5630)
- 12.00 Sesame Street (1) (12104)
- 12.30pm Bewitched (1) (1) (47388)
- 1.00 The Afternoon Line Racing tips (28814)
- 1.30 The Cheltenham Festival Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2000 Royal & Sun Alliance Novices Hurdle, 2.35 Queen Mother Champion Chase, 3.15 Coral Cup Hurdle and the 3.55 Royal & Sun Alliance Chase (197458)
- 4.30 Countdown (1) (3007494)
- 4.55 Ricki Lake (1) (6015185)
- 5.30 Pet Rescue Presented by Wendy Turner and Mark Evans (1) (456)
- 6.00 Dawson's Creek Joey and Dawson's newfound romance looks set to founder as an infringement of privacy and subsequent revelations open a rift between the teenage lovers. Pacey's forgotten birthday inspires him to expand his horizons (1) (872765)
- 6.50 T4: T4 Highlights from last week's T4 programmes (1) (274630)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News: Weather (1) (168494)
- 7.55 Bodyscapes Close-up photography reveals the hidden world of the human tongue (1) (844433)
- 8.00 Brookside A saboteur strikes at the Millennium Club (1) (3384)
- 8.30 Doors to Miami Denny O'Brien welcomes three groups of tourists to Rome, and reveals what sort of weekend they will experience, including a football fan's dream holiday (3/5) (1) (9611)



Alex Kingston stars as the under-pressure Dr Elizabeth Corday (8pm)

- 9.00 ER An exhausting 36-hour shift ends in near-disaster when Corday mistakenly administers a potentially fatal injection. Corday suffers a humiliating initiation ceremony and a star candidate applies for the role of ER chief (1) (5801)
- 10.00 Sex and the City Charlotte considers a ménage à trois (1) (13833)
- 10.30 Michael Moore: The Awful Truth Subversive reports (1) (58253)
- 11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show Satirical comedy with Ian Lee and Daisy Donovan (8962)
- 11.30 The Cheltenham Festival Highlights and analysis (78997)
- 12.00 So Graham Norton (1) (736676)
- 12.40am boardstupid Snowboarding news (1) (8128554)
- 1.45 Football Italia: Mezzanotte Round-up of the week's action (3817031)
- 4.05 Trans World Sport (8876234)
- 5.10 Soviet Eclipses Profiles of great Soviet musicians (1/3) (1) (887655)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (445874)
- 7.00 Wildlife World Part 19: Singing lessons for all (1) (1) (8886307)
- 7.30 Milkshake! (2313833)
- 7.55 Wimpie's House (1) (4392562)
- 8.00 Hawkshaw (1) (2515185)
- 8.30 Dimpled Down Farm (1) (2514458)
- 9.00 Hot Property (1) (1) (9515663)
- 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (1) (4165458)
- 9.35 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1) (1235384)
- 10.25 Sunset Beach Close finds Caitlin in the alley (1) (2378320)
- 11.10 Leisure (1) (1) (412325)
- 12.00 5 News at Noon (1) (2518272)
- 12.30pm Family Affairs Sibhan returns to Charnham (1) (1) (996494)
- 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Jessica questions Sly (1) (8897678)
- 1.30 The Roseanne Show Outrageous chat with the bubbly comedian (1995765)
- 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (1) (9874494)
- 2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment; 5 News Update (147268)
- 3.30 From Hollywood to Deadwood (1990) Detective spoof, starring Scott Paulin and Jim Haynie as California private eyes hired by a movie company to track down a missing leading lady. Directed by Rex Pickett (3845479)
- 5.20 5 News (16197253)
- 5.25 Russell Grant's Postcards Hounslow Heath, Middlesex (17547794)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (2115582)
- 6.00 5 News: Weather Round-up of the day's stories (1) (2118475)
- 6.30 Family Affairs Pete plans to get his own back on Dave (1) (2108727)
- 7.00 Knight Rider Adventure series, starring David Hasselhoff as Michael Knight, a hi-tech vigilante battling to protect the innocent from crooks who reckon they're above the law — with the help of his talking car, of course (1) (884559)
- 7.30 Nature's extraordinary: leslie sees dragon, which lives under threat from man's destructive activities (1); 5 News Update (2198511)
- 8.00 Chances Are (1989) A widow is pleasantly surprised to discover her late, lamented lawyer husband has been reincarnated in the body of a much younger man. Romantic supernatural comedy, starring Cybill Shepherd, Ryan O'Neal, Robert Downey Jr and Mary Stuart Masterson. Directed by Emile Ardolino (1) (5 News Update) (8210017)
- 10.00 Zero Tolerance (1994) An FBI agent renegades to seek revenge on the Mexican drug cartel responsible for murdering his family. Violent crime drama, starring Robert Patrick. Directed by Joseph Merhi (1) (7348524)
- 11.45 Mezzanotte's Big Night In With Chaka Khan and Ross Burdon (8889036)
- 12.25am UK Raw A glamour model teases her wiles (5/1) (1) (7891963)
- 12.55 Live NHL Ice Hockey live coverage of Phoenix Coyotes v Detroit Red Wings (8622506)
- 4.40 The Movie Chart Show (1) (9251437)
- 5.05 Move On Live (1) (32777388)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (6573741)

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SKY ONE

- 7.00am Conto Duetto (1) (51431) 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (1) (4814) 8.30 Hollywood Squares (1) (3430) 9.00 Joe Raposo (1) (51721) 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1) (51721) 11.00 Garry Shandling's The Mindy Project (1) (51721) 11.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 12.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 12.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 1.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 1.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 2.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 2.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 3.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 3.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 4.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 4.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 5.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 5.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 6.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 6.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 7.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 7.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 8.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 8.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 9.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 9.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 10.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 10.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 11.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 11.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 12.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 12.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 1.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 1.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 2.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 2.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 3.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 3.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 4.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 4.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 5.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 5.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 6.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 6.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 7.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 7.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 8.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 8.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 9.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 9.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 10.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 10.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 11.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 11.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 12.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 12.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 1.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 1.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 2.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 2.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 3.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 3.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 4.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 4.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 5.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 5.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 6.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 6.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 7.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 7.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 8.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 8.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 9.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 9.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 10.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 10.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 11.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 11.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 12.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 12.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 1.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 1.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 2.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 2.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 3.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 3.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 4.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 4.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 5.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 5.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 6.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 6.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 7.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 7.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 8.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 8.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 9.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 9.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 10.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 10.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 11.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 11.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 12.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 12.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 1.00 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721) 1.30 Jerry Seinfeld (1) (51721)



CRICKET 45

Lara rewarded for his leading role

RK

SPORT

WEDNESDAY MARCH 17 1999

RUGBY UNION 46

Catt keeps his balance after latest recall



Lightning strikes twice as brilliant Irish champion takes opening-day Festival honours

Istabraq hurdles into the realms of greatness

By ALAN LEE, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE race was over in the time that it takes to change gear in a car or to shake the reins of a horse. In that seminal moment, as Charlie Swan asked a searching question and Istabraq gave a breathtaking response, the doubts were silenced, months of speculation seemed foolish and the stature of one of the greatest hurdlers was established.

They were approaching the final turn in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle, Cheltenham's daunting hill ahead, when Swan engaged the weapon he knew that the rest could not counter. Overdrive. As Istabraq quickened, the roar from the 45,000 crowd drowned out all but the conviction of the jockey in front. "When I kicked, I thought nothing will go past us now," Swan said.

Nothing, in fact, came close. Istabraq crossed the final flight in glorious isolation and though the eventual margin was 3½ lengths, compared with 12 over the same runner-up, Theatreworld, last year, only the most grudging, sceptical soul would suggest that this is a horse past his best.

Swan had no cause to get serious with his horse; indeed, he had plenty of time to perfect his victory salute. The proximity of Theatreworld, his bridesmaid of a stablemate finishing second for the third successive year, was deceptive. And in the sunlit winner's enclosure, as a section of the

Cheltenham



Festival

Armchair View 42
Tizzard joy 42
Knight on guard 43
All today's runners 43

crowd sang a self-composed ode to the champion, nobody cared anyway.

Istabraq — an Arabic word meaning to run like lightning — fulfils the bold confidence of his name. He is the first horse to retain the hurdling title since See You Then in 1986 and few doubt that he can further emulate that horse by completing the hat-trick next year. Coral and the Tote last night offered only 6-4 against it, though such odds will not look so cramped if he makes it back next March.

He is so clearly a class above his generation that this race had intrigued not in the usual anticipatory skirmish of



Swan leads Istabraq through the adoring Cheltenham throng into the winner's enclosure after their emphatic triumph

RESULT

1. Istabraq 4-9 fav
2. Theatreworld 16-1
3. French Holly 11-2
4. Mister Morose 100-1

ery of his jumping should not bring him down. The horse did sweat freely, but on such a day he was not alone in that, and he jumped impeccably other than fiddling the last two. "If he'd jumped them better we'd have won even easier," Swan said. "I didn't want to hit the front so soon, but I really had no choice. He has such speed now."

French Holly was far from disgraced in third, making a race of it until that last turn.

He was overhauled by Theatreworld on the run to the line and Ferd Murphy, his trainer, said: "The way we rode him may have cost us second place." These, though, are very different horses. The giant French Holly may now become a star over fences, but Istabraq will never venture beyond the smaller obstacles.

At 7, there is neither cause nor temptation to think of change, let alone rest or retirement. As with all great horses, especially Irish ones, he touches the lives of many. J. P. McManus, his charismatic owner, said: "What Istabraq is doing controls how many of us run our lives — myself, my family and friends, but others, too. People want to know his plans before they book their

holidays." McManus had not backed Istabraq — "at those odds it wouldn't have made me feel any better" — but he did admit to being a financial casualty of his two heavily backed runners in the opening Citroën Supreme Novices Hurdle. Now, though, he was feeling no pain.

Owner and trainer will take time to debate plans, but the indication is that Istabraq may run next at Punchestown rather than at Aintree, the scene of his only defeat in his past 16 races. Wherever he goes, Swan will go with him, now until their mutual retirement. "I'll be back next year and for a fourth and fifth year if it happens," he said. "So long as he is here, I will go on riding."

Ferguson's taunts provoke angry riposte from Inter

FROM MATT DICKINSON IN MILAN

IF IT was a reaction that Alex Ferguson was after, Internazionale took the bait yesterday. Increasingly riled by the Manchester United manager's incessant references to their habitual skulduggery, the Italians responded with a few acerbic words of their own.

Quite why Ferguson, whose team lead 2-0 from the first leg, should have wanted to stir such hostility in the build-up to the European Cup quarter-final tonight, is not immediately apparent. Perhaps he calculates that Inter have more to lose from an ill-tempered game? Maybe he thinks his team will respond best by walking into a whirlwind? Whatever the reasoning, one hopes that he has read the situation correctly because he has turned his team, and particularly himself, into headline villains in Milan.

Mircea Lucescu, the Inter coach, believes that Ferguson risked trouble among supporters by his comments before the first tie, and the Romanian's highly-public retort yesterday ensured that the eardrums will be close to bursting as 80,000 supporters — at least 4,000 of them from Manchester — cram into the San Siro tonight.

"I always believed in the English sense of fair play,"



Ronaldo's return 44
Great escapes 44

Lucescu said, "but then Alex Ferguson is from Scotland. And they don't have fair play there apparently. I have a great admiration for him as a coach, so I am very sad that someone like him should make these comments and that a club of Manchester United's stature should be involved in this. I always thought United had a certain style."

"Before the game in England, some of the messages might have incited problems in the crowd. It is a sad thing and a bad thing, but maybe Ferguson has done it because he is afraid. That is what you have to ask yourself. Surely there can be no other explanation."

Amid the hurrying of unpleasantries, there was a serious point to be made. Roy Keane,

Paul Scholes and Denis Irwin were all cautioned in the first game, and a repeat would mean suspension from the first leg of the semi-final. Given that Gilles Veissiere, the French referee, showed no hesitation in dismissing Steve McManaman and Paul Ince when Liverpool played Valencia in the UEFA Cup this season, discipline will be surrendered at a cost.

"I think we have a good referee tomorrow," Ferguson said. "I hope so. If that is the case, we can see a very good match, a fair match. Then everyone is pleased."

Pressed on his criticism of Inter by an Italian journalist, his response was pointed: "You will get a fair game from Manchester United."

With Beckham and Baggio,

Giggs and Ronaldo, Keane and Simeone on the same pitch, the hope must be that this game, like the first at Old Trafford, is remembered for the number of chances rather than bookings. With Inter needing to score at least twice, the onus is on the Italians to attack. United, meanwhile, know no other way.

The principal change from the first leg is, of course, the appearance of Ronaldo, who has scored one goal in five European Cup games this season compared with Dwight Yorke's seven in seven, and who remains preoccupied by health concerns and a lack of match fitness.

That did not stop Giuseppe Bergomi, the Inter captain, claiming yesterday that "emotionally his presence means so much to us," but Jaap Stam, Henning Berg and Ronny Johnsen have already faced the world's best striker at international level and none appears traumatised by the experience.

United have lost all six previous matches in Italy, scoring only once in the process, but Ferguson stuck to his prediction yesterday that his team would stretch even a fit Ronaldo. And the Brazilian is definitely not that.

Lucescu: public retort

Tears flow as Pitman calls it a day

By ALAN LEE

EMOTIONAL scenes are commonplace in the winner's enclosure at Cheltenham but the tears do not often flow before a race has been run. Yesterday was different. The Festival crowd was enjoying the spring sunshine, an hour before the off, when Jenny Pitman arrived at the microphone to announce her retirement.

She was dressed in scarlet because, she said, she felt so pale, but it quickly seemed more appropriate to the mood she would create. After two introductory comments, she choked on her words. "This will be my last Cheltenham as a professional trainer," she managed to say, whereupon the thousands on the terracing around the parade ring burst into prolonged, spontaneous applause.

Retirements need not be sad but they are invariably emotional. The farewell of Mrs J. Pitman, OBE, of Upper Lambourn, was a rival to that of Mr H. D. Bird, of Barnsley, in the white handkerchief stakes.

Pitman, 52, had somehow kept her decision secret and the impact was all the greater for that. The first lady of training, who numbers two Gold Cup and two Grand National winners on her glittering CV, had chosen her own way of announcing the end and, once she had rediscovered the power of speech, she did so with characteristic eloquence.

Her Weathercock House yard will be taken over by her son, Mark, who himself was close to tears as his mother explained the bombshell, starting with a reassurance. Only last year, she was having treatment for thyroid cancer but she insisted yesterday: "I'm not ill, so don't think there is bad news following this."

"I am not going for any reason other than it's the right thing to do. Mark has outgrown his own yard, so this is for him. I've loved my job, that is the difficulty. I signed some papers at breakfast-time this morning, handing over the yard to Mark, and I think I had to do it then or I'd have bottled out. I started crying at six this morning and I hoped

I would have stopped by now."

The farmer's daughter from Leicestershire has never denied that she is kinder to horses than humans and her brusque manner with those unwisely enough to cross her contrasts with the passionate attachment to every inmate of her stables.

There have been plenty of good ones since she moved into Lambourn in 1977, after the end of her marriage to the former jockey, Richard Pitman, but it was Corbiere who brought her to national attention by winning the Grand National in 1993. Yesterday, she wore a brooch of a horse in Corbiere colours.

Having become the woman to train the winner of the National, she did it again in 1995 with Royal Athlete. By then, she had also been re-

PITMAN'S PROGRESS

Born: June 11, 1946. First trainer's licence: 1975. Awarded OBE: 1998.

BIG RACES WON

Grand National: Corbiere, 1993.
Royal Athlete, 1995.
Cheltenham Gold Cup: Burrough Hill Lad, 1984, Garriot Savernham, 1991.
King George VI Chase: Burrough Hill Lad, 1984.
Scottish Grand National: Wiltford, 1985.
Welsh National: Corbiere, 1992.
Burrough Hill Lad, 1983; Shearboy, 1986.
Irish Grand National: Muddishin, 1997.

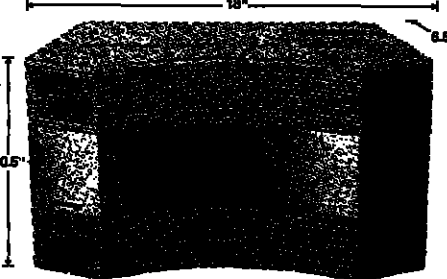
sponsible for Esha Ness's "victory" in the void race of 1993.

Burrough Hill Lad, the dark, dominant steeplechaser of 1984, won her the Gold Cup for the first time but one sensed, yesterday, that her greatest moment came in watching Mark partner Garrison Savannah to win the race in 1991. "That was very special," she said feelingly. "But I've got so many memories that money can't buy. I haven't got a lot of money but I feel I'm one of the richest people here." She would like one more memory, a valeictory winner at the greatest of all meetings, and how apt it would be if Ginger Fox, who runs in the last race tomorrow, could oblige.

Simon Barnes, page 1

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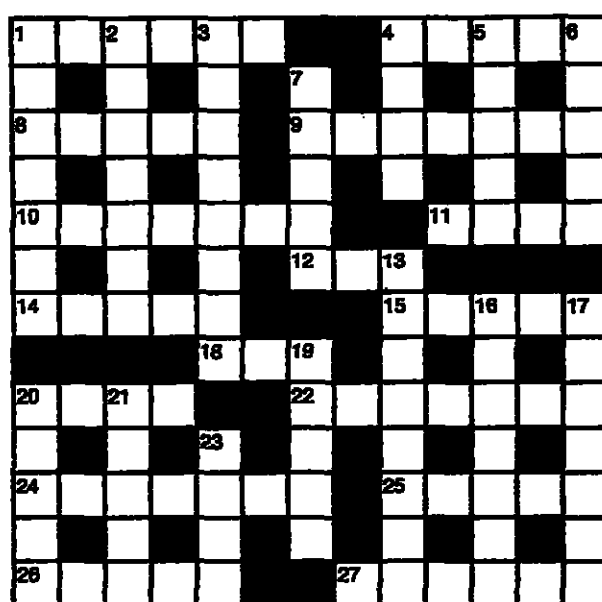
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1667

ACROSS

- 1 In words (6)
- 4 Be injured; draw fluid from (5)
- 8 In good condition; sea inlet (5)
- 9 Antarctic bird (7)
- 10 A soft roll (7)
- 11 Flout (authority) (4)
- 12 Condensation (3)
- 14 Bring to bear (5)
- 15 Made eyes at (5)
- 18 The feeling of self (3)
- 20 Risky (broad), poor-quality (food) (4)
- 22 Tries to date (4,3)
- 24 Bohuslav — Cz. composer (7)
- 25 Die by water (5)
- 26 Fashion; title (5)
- 27 Spiral round (6)

DOWN

- 1 In sight (7)
- 2 Regular habits (7)
- 3 Resign throne (8)
- 4 Gang; sounds like forbidden (4)
- 5 Escape notice of (5)
- 6 Drab, dirty (5)
- 7 Rate of progress (5)
- 13 Ordinary, for normal use (8)
- 16 Three Beethoven overtures (7)
- 17 Lessening of (political) tension (7)
- 19 Fibre from old rope (5)
- 20 Writer Henry; outlaw Jesse (5)
- 21 Anxious (5)
- 23 Quote, refer to (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1666

ACROSS: 1 Plagiarism 8 Tennis 9 In all 10 Hook 11 Anatomy 13 Uncle 14 Fifty 16 Chestnut 17 Bier 20 Swear 21 Gouging 22 Ascendancy

DOWN: 1 Pitch 2 Anne of Cleves 3 Iris 4 Relate 5 Spin-offs 6 Mahatma 7 Clay 12 Leonardo 13 Uprate 15 Budgie 18 Rugby 19 Fund

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